

سكرا من الاصل



THE INDEPENDENT

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(1R50p) 45p



Deborah Ross meets Roger Scruton FRONT

John Walsh: celebrity bitching in the kitchen PAGE 5



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IN THE MONDAY REVIEW + NETWORK

'I will not resign,' says Clinton as he prepares for his longest week

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton insisted yesterday that he would not leave office voluntarily, nor admit to breaking the law. At the start of a momentous week in American politics, and a potentially fateful mission to Israel and the West Bank, a defiant and stony-faced Mr Clinton said: "I have no intention of resigning. It's never crossed my mind."

Mr Clinton, who last week became only the second president in US history to face a full House vote on impeachment, rebuffed demands to acknowledge he had lied under oath when he denied an affair with Monica Lewinsky. "I can't do that because I did not commit a crime," he said.

"I don't know what's going to happen," Mr Clinton added later at a joint press conference with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. "It's out of my hands."

The US President was speaking in Jerusalem, on the first leg of a Middle East trip that threatens almost as many risks as the political minefield back home. As journalists repeatedly questioned the US President on his future, Mr Netanyahu subtly urged them to focus on the endangered land-for-peace deal signed at Wye in the US between Israel and the Palestinians.

But with the Wye Agreement threatening to unravel, a trip conceived as a celebration by the US President had turned into an emergency diplomatic salvage operation. The discordant tone of the visit was set almost as soon as President Clinton arrived at Tel Aviv airport. After the playing of national anthems, Mr Netanyahu welcomed Mr Clinton to Israel with a volley of warnings about Palestinian backsliding.



Bill Clinton (right) in conversation with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, after their joint press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday. *Blake Sell/Reuters*

But the multi-layered wreckage of Middle East peace agreements seemed less serious to Mr Clinton than the raging turmoil in Washington, where Republicans yesterday multiplied their calls for Mr Clinton to resign.

Henry Hyde, chairman of the House judiciary committee, yesterday said Mr Clinton should go. "Yes, I think the President should step down," he said. "I think he could be heroic if he did that."

The most senior politician to call for Mr Clinton's voluntary departure, Mr Hyde said resignation would provide a "quick and radical" end to the scandal. "If he doesn't, it's hard to predict the consequences."

Mr Hyde was speaking the morning after his committee approved all four draft articles of impeachment against the President: two alleging perjury, one

obstruction of justice, and the fourth abuse and misuse of power. It also rejected the softer option of censure. Each article of impeachment - the formal charges that Mr Clinton would face if the full House votes for a Senate trial - was challenged by the Democrats, producing moments of high drama.

Minutes before the first vote - on the first perjury charge on Friday - television stations had interrupted transmissions to show Mr Clinton's latest apology, a last-ditch plea for indulgence from the White House Rose Garden. On Saturday, transmission of the passage of the fourth and last article was interrupted by the President's arrival in Israel.

bickering about definitions of lying and sexual misconduct.

With the articles of impeachment now passed, Mr Clinton's immediate fate rests with the House of Representatives which has been summoned back to Washington this Thursday for the crucial vote.

The defeat of the censure motion in committee makes it unlikely that a censure option will be placed before the full House. A majority for any one of the four articles makes a Senate trial all but inevitable.

Mr Clinton's constitutional disgrace is now set to surpass that of Richard Nixon, who resigned before the House could vote on a Senate trial.

With time running out, White House aides are desperately searching for a strategy to save Mr Clinton from disaster.

But the mood of the country could hardly be more different. The President may be in dire constitutional danger, a centrepiece of his diplomacy may be in shreds, but a surreal air of calm pervades the land beyond the proverbial Washington "Beltway".

Mr Clinton's job approval ratings persist above 60 per cent; according to the polls, his impeachment is opposed by almost as many; most favour a censure vote. Last month's congressional elections renewed the Democrats' - and the President's - mandate.

But the constitutional process moves on. It is out of kilter with the popular mood, but the voters are out Christmas shopping. "Wake up, America," said one of the more articulate Democrats on the judiciary committee last week as he tried in vain to turn the Republican tide. "Wake up; if they can do it to the President, they can do it to you."

Rescue mission, page 10

Blair edges around IRA arms deadlock

FRESH ATTEMPTS will be made this week to inject new momentum into the troubled Northern Ireland peace process despite the setback of the IRA having ruled out arms decommissioning.

Last week's presentation of the Nobel peace prize to John Hume, the SDLP leader, David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, followed as it was by the refusal to decommission, has had no evidently beneficial effect on the process.

But although the decommissioning nut appears as difficult to crack as ever, both the British and Irish governments remain hopeful of making early progress on lesser but important issues. These are principally the agreement on the shape of new Northern Ireland government departments and links with the Irish Republic.

Both Tony Blair and the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, are expected to become involved in efforts to clear these issues out of the way before Christmas. Success in this field would, it is

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

hoped, restore some momentum and prepare the ground for a new year push to tackle decommissioning.

On the technicalities of these issues, Unionists and nationalists are by all accounts on the point of agreement: a senior Unionist figure said they and the SDLP were "within an ace" of an accord. The question is whether prime ministerial involvement can clinch the issue.

The weekend brought salvos of hard-line rhetoric between the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein. Mr Trimble said: "We are quite disappointed at the failure of the Sinn Fein leadership, who have it within their power to resolve this issue. It is their intransigence that is the problem. It is a repudiation of peace and I am sure all civilised people will repudiate them."

Gerry Kelly - a senior Sinn Fein member who has been euphemistically described as "close to the thinking" of the

IRA - meanwhile accused the Unionist party of bad faith and of attempting to exclude Sinn Fein from new political arrangements.

In an important speech in commemoration of a republican hero, he added: "Republicans are becoming increasingly detached from the Good Friday Agreement."

"It is increasingly my own view that the Unionist party is engaged in an attempt to push the IRA back to war."

Significantly, however, he went on to signal that republicans were not about to fall into this alleged trap. "There is an onus on republicans to resist the destructive and short-sighted Unionist strategies," he said.

The Unionist and Sinn Fein positions have now assumed a curious symmetry.

Unionists say Sinn Fein leaders can and should push the IRA into decommissioning; republicans say Mr Trimble and his allies should convince nervous backbenchers that Sinn Fein should be brought into government.

Animal rights man ends hunger strike

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

BARRY HORNE, the militant animal rights campaigner yesterday ended his hunger strike, having refused food for more than nine weeks.

In a brief statement issued last night, the Animals Betrayed Coalition, said Horne had decided to rescind his living will - which ensured he would not be kept artificially alive - after studying a series of government papers. He had also requested to be fed.

The papers were released this week and it is understood Horne believed they represent a change in the Government's stance on animal experimentation.

"Barry has finished going through the papers today and at 4.30pm he rescinded his living will," said the statement.

The Prison Service said Horne, 46, had asked for his living will to be rescinded and had requested "nutrition and medical attention".

Whether Horne will be able to make a full recovery is un-



Horne: had gone without food for nine weeks

clear. At one stage doctors said he only had a 70 per cent chance but specialists at York District Hospital to where he had been transferred, recently said he was not suffering from an irreversible condition.

In addition, they felt the presence of his supporters outside the hospital meant its operation was seriously dis-

rupted. As a result, he was returned to Full Sutton Jail where he is serving an 18-year sentence for arson.

His condition is said to be "serious but stable", though supporters said yesterday his eyesight had deteriorated to the extent he could only see silhouettes.

Horne began his hunger strike on 6 October but said he would end it if the Government announced a date for the setting up of a Royal Commission into the use of animals in experiments. The Government said it refused to be blackmailed by his tactics.

It is believed that one of Horne's former wives, Aileen, visited him in prison on Saturday. His friend and next-of-kin Alison Lawson visited him yesterday prior to his announcement.

Police had been warned to expect a surge in violent activity from animal rights activists if Horne died. It is understood that a hit-list of people linked to animal experimentation had been drawn up.

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One dead and three missing after dinghy capsized off Iona
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TODAY'S TELEVISION
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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'The destruction of NHS dentistry is a scandal that has gone almost unreported'

UNTIL NOW. READ JEREMY LAURANCE THIS TUESDAY, AND EVERY TUESDAY, ON HEALTH

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH McRAE, ROBERT HISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE McEVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

■ THIS STUDENT LIFE
The latest instalment of the real-life student soap

■ PLUS VISUAL ARTS & MEDIA



Second minister in tax-haven row

TONY BLAIR faces a new row over the tax status of his ministers today after revelations that the millionaire businessman Lord Sainsbury of Turville is receiving income from an off-shore tax haven.

The Tories will today table a series of questions in the House of Commons to demand full details of a series of trusts in the British Virgin Islands that benefit the former supermarket tycoon who was made Science minister this year.

The claims come just days after the Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, was again called on to resign for his own failure to declare all his financial interests.

The controversy flared after it emerged that Lord Sainsbury, the richest man in the UK with a fortune of more than £2bn, had an "income stream" from the Caribbean-based trust.

Any profits on the trust, believed to be worth several million, are exempt from the UK's

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

40 per cent capital gains tax, as well as local corporation taxes.

The Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that the trust's main beneficiaries were relatives of Lord Sainsbury and some charities, but admitted that he received income personally.

However, the DTI stressed that the minister paid taxes on the income he did receive and denied that the trust was in any way "underhand".

Lord Sainsbury, who is said to have donated more than £2m to the Labour Party, headed the Sainsbury's supermarket chain until he was made a minister last July.

The Labour peer then placed all his £1.4bn stake into a blind trust to avoid potential conflicts of interest with his role at the DTI.

Despite a reference to his "overseas trusts", there was no

mention of his interest in the trust in the British Virgin Islands, a fund which is administered from Switzerland.

The shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, John Redwood, said he would table a series of Commons questions today on the minister's role in the DTI and his private interests in the wake of the "amazing revelations".

"We need a clear statement from the Government on its attitude to off-shore tax havens. Does it wish to sustain its dislike of off-shore arrangements?" he said. "If so, why do so many ministers have such arrangements?"

A spokesman for the DTI said that the trust in question mainly held US investments which were not owned by Lord Sainsbury but from which he did receive payments.

"The capital beneficiaries are mainly his relatives and charities," he said.

The revelations follow intense efforts by the Tories to force the resignation of the Paymaster General. Mr Robinson's ministerial career is believed to be on a knife-edge after he gave a 55-second Commons apology for failing to declare a trust in Guernsey.

In a statement issued last night, Lord Sainsbury said he had consulted House of Lords officials about declaring the trusts in its register of members' interests and was advised not to.

"I do not own the assets in these trusts but I do receive the income. I have paid full UK income tax at the top rate on all the income of the trusts," he said.

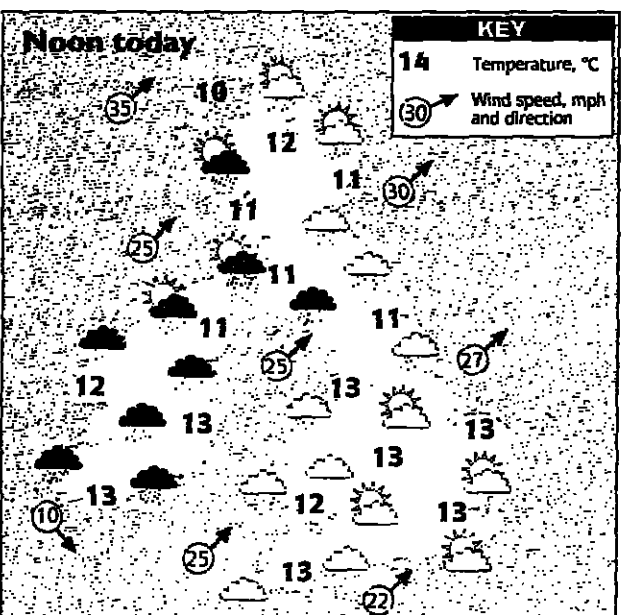
"There are two trusts. One was created before 1991 and paid no capital gains tax until the tax changes introduced in the Budget of 18 March 1998, since when it has been liable to UK CGT. The other was created after 1991 and has always paid UK CGT."



Supporters of General Pinochet rally near the government palace in Santiago to demand his release

AFP

BRITAIN TODAY



General situation It will be another very mild day, especially in the south with temperatures well into double figures. Scotland and Northern Ireland will, however, be wet and windy with a spell of heavy rain and extensive hill fog; rain will turn to showers from the north-west later. Much of England and Wales will start mainly dry, but it will be breezy, particularly in the north and west. The south-west will be cloudy and locally misty, while northern Wales and northern England turn dull, wet and windy.

SE & Cent S England, London, E Anglia, E Midlands, Channel Is: A dry start with some bright or hazy sunny spells, but it will cloud over with rain will crease by evening. Mild. A brisk south-west wind. Max temps 13-15C (55-59F).

East of NW England, W Wales, W Midlands, Lake Dist, Isle of Wight, Mid: Partly cloudy with rain spreading from the north-west during the day. A gusty south-west wind will ease later. Max temps 11-13C (52-55F).

NW England, DU and breezy with rain developing from the north, but mild. A gusty south-west wind. Max temps 12-14C (54-57F).

SW England, S Wales: Cloudy and windy with rain spreading from the north by the afternoon and evening. A strong south-west wind will ease later. Max temps 12-14C (54-57F).

N Ireland, SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Morning rain clearing leaving blustery showers and sunny spells. A strong to near gale force west to south-west wind. Max temps 10-13C (50-55F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: A windy day with early rain clearing to leave sunny spells and a few showers. A strong to near gale force west to south-west wind. Max temps 9-12C (48-54F).

OUTLOOK Tuesday looks like staying dull and wet over much of England and Wales, but Scotland and Northern Ireland should remain drier. Wednesday will be more settled in southern and eastern areas, but the north and west will remain windy, damp and misty.

TRAVEL London: A41 Finchley Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Portico Green. Major works at Finchley Rd gyratory. Until 31st December.

Cambridgeshire: A1 between Alconbury and Hadden. Construction, lane closures and contraflow. Until 31st December.

Cambridgeshire: A14 between junctions 1a (A62) & 2 (Wymondley East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 30 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999.

AA Roadworks: Call 0334 601777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

West Yorkshire: M1 between J42 Lethbridge Interchange (M62) and J43 Stourton Roadworks and a 50mph speed limit. Until 31st December 1998.

Cambridgeshire: A14 between junctions 1a (A62) & 2 (Wymondley East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 30 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999.

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YESTERDAY

EXTREMES
Warmest: St Mawgan 13C (55F)
Coldest (day): Ayrton 5C (41F)
Wettest: Ayrton 0.68 ins
Sunniest: Ely 1.0 hr
For 24hrs to 2pm Sunday

	Sum	Rain	Max
hrs	in	mm	°C
Aberdeen	2.2	0.14	9
Anglesey	0.1	0.09	11
Belfast	0.1	0.10	8
Birmingham	1.1	0.06	10
Bristol	0.2	0.09	10
Bournemouth	0.1	0.16	13
Buxton	0.5	0.14	9
Cardiff	0.1	0.23	13
Cardigan	-	-	-
Carmarthen	0.0	0.08	12
Caswell	0.1	0.23	13
Clackmannon	-	-	-
Cromer	0.0	0.08	12
Doncaster	1.3	0.03	10
Edinburgh	0.1	0.17	14
Exmouth	0.0	0.17	14
Flashford	0.0	0.06	12
Folkestone	0.3	0.25	10
Glasgow	0.0	0.30	11
Hastings	0.0	0.07	12
Heathrow	0.0	0.07	12
Isle of Man	0.3	0.36	13
Jersey	0.0	0.19	14
London	0.0	0.02	11
Lewisham	0.2	0.30	8
London	0.7	0.13	14
Lowestoft	0.0	0.09	12
Manchester	0.6	0.03	10
Margate	2.6	0.04	14
Morecambe	0.2	0.21	10
Northwich	0.1	0.02	10
Northampton	0.0	0.11	12
Northwich	0.0	0.11	12
Nottingham	0.0	0.08	11
Salisbury	0.0	0.02	11
Scarborough	0.0	0.02	11
Sheffield	0.0	0.16	12
Southampton	0.0	0.12	13
Southport	0.0	0.18	10
Stirling	1.6	0.31	8
Stranraer	0.0	0.25	13
Swansea	0.0	0.35	11
Torquay	0.0	0.24	15
Weymouth	0.0	0.18	11
Weymouth	0.0	0.18	11

AIR QUALITY
Today's readings

	NO _x	SO ₂
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON
Sun rises: 07:59
Sun sets: 15:52
Moon rises: 01:58
Moon sets: 13:59
New Moon: Dec 18th

RAIN OR SHINE...

SCOTLAND'S FAILING fortunes in football could soon be a distant memory thanks to a radical new plan - to play inside super soccer domes.

Experts frustrated by the country's performance during France 98 - when Scotland took only one point - have decided that the problem could lie with muddy pitches, rain and cold weather. Now a study into a £6 million plan for Britain's first full-size indoor dome is close to completion.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

THE WORLD YESTERDAY
Lowest recorded: Fair Isle 12C (54F) in Shetland. Warmest: London 15C (59F). Wettest: London 0.68 ins. Sunniest: Ely 1.0 hr. For 24hrs to 2pm Sunday.

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'Straw is a kidnapper' says Pinochet

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE AND STEVE BOGGAN

GENERAL AUGUSTO Pinochet sparked fresh controversy yesterday after he allegedly accused the Government of plotting to kidnap him and hold him illegally in Britain.

In an interview with the *Sunday Mirror*, conducted through an associate, the General said he was the victim of treason after having been invited to Britain by the Government. He said Prime Minister Tony Blair was untrustworthy.

Last night there was confusion over the interview after an adviser to the General said he had not made such comments. The newspaper said it stood by its story.

In the interview, conducted through the former Chilean finance minister Sergio De Castro, Mr Pinochet said: "I am the victim of a treason. I was invited to Britain by the Government and I was officially received by the British Government."

"Now I know all the time they were plotting behind my back to arrest me in an illegal action under international law. They have kidnapped me and are now holding me illegally against my will."

He added: "The men behind this are no more than criminals. Jack Straw is no more than a kidnapper in that sense. And how can Tony Blair ever be trusted? He is untrustworthy."

Mr Pinochet, fighting extradition to Spain where he is accused of genocide, said he had lost faith in the British justice system. He also complained of the conditions he is living under while on bail.

Later, in a statement, Patrick Robertson, adviser to Mr Pinochet, said: "The sentiments expressed by Sergio De Castro are his own, and Senator Pinochet has no comment now or in the near future about the circumstances surrounding his detention."

Colin Myler, editor of the *Sunday Mirror*, said: "I am astonished. There is absolutely no doubt that Sergio De Castro spoke to Senator Pinochet on behalf of the *Sunday Mirror*."

Last week Mr Pinochet appeared before Belmarsh magistrates in south London as extradition proceedings began. Mr Pinochet, 83, said he did not recognise the court's authority.

It was also claimed yesterday that British officials in Madrid had warned Mr Pinochet not to visit Britain because he might be arrested. Mr Pinochet was arrested last October after arriving for a back operation. Before he was arrested he took tea with his old ally, Baroness Thatcher.

Last night a Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are quite clear that no such warning was passed to the Chilean embassy in Madrid. The embassy has no knowledge of any embassy official confirming that any such warning was given."

Tomorrow lawyers acting for Mr Pinochet will appeal to the House of Lords against the decision made by the five Law Lords that the General was not immune from extradition.

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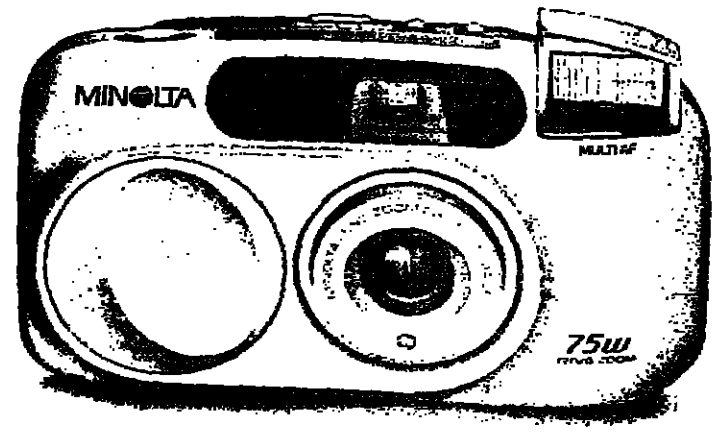
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Only from the mind of Minolta.

The last of the British movie moguls

By PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

THE WORLD of show business yesterday paid tribute to Lord Grade, the legendary impresario of film and television who died on Sunday morning at the age of 91.

Lord Grade died of a heart attack while surrounded by close family at the London Clinic. He had been ill for some time.

Tributes to his 70 years in show business were led by his friend Lord Putnam, the film producer. "He was an extraordinary man, ebullient, generous and unique. With Sydney Bernstein of Granada, he was fundamental to the development of the ITV we now know. He always wanted to make a deal and you could never surprise him. I loved him." The actress Barbara Windsor said yesterday: "What made him special was that he had a great feel for what would be popular and that's what made him loved by thousands in show business."

Ms Windsor and Lord Putnam were joined by the film director Michael Winner who said: "Lord Grade was an extraordinary man. We'll never see anyone like that again. He was just a wonderful man to do a deal with."

Lord Grade, born Louis Winogradsky, became a professional dancer in the Twenties, touring halls with his own table to dance the Charleston on in exhibitions with his brother Bernard.

When the dancing damaged his knees, Lew Grade set up his own theatrical agency with Bernard. His taste for outsize cigars developed during the war when he gave out the huge cigars as a way of keeping the stars he managed happy.

In 1955 he teamed up with showman Val Parnell to be at the launch of ITV where his talent in variety and light entertainment soon came to dominate the channel. It was because of the strength of his ATV company that ITV challenged the supremacy of the BBC through the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies.

If Bernstein's Granada broke new ground with *Coronation Street* and *World in Action*, Grade's ATV created an almost endless succession of popular drama series. He said earlier this year that he had made 10,000 hours of television drama and despite his tendency to showmanship, it was easy to believe him.

Lord Grade's production arm ITC made 185 episodes of *Robin Hood*, 146 episodes of *The Saint* and just about every classic serial from the golden age of British television. These included *Randall and Hopkirk (deceased)*, *Thunderbirds*, *Space 1999*, *The Persuaders* and *The Prisoner*.

Referring to the *Thunderbirds*, *Space 1999* and *Joe 90*, he said recently: "I did space before Spielberg."

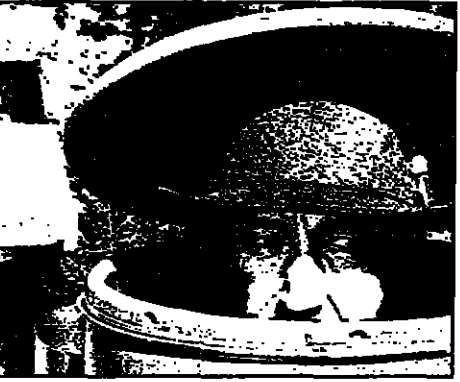
So enduring are the popular drama brands he created that the film giant Polygram bought ITC last year so that it can exploit the rights to his archives to make new film versions of his classic programmes.

His other great strength in television came from his 20 years as a show-business agent working with variety stars of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. This ex-

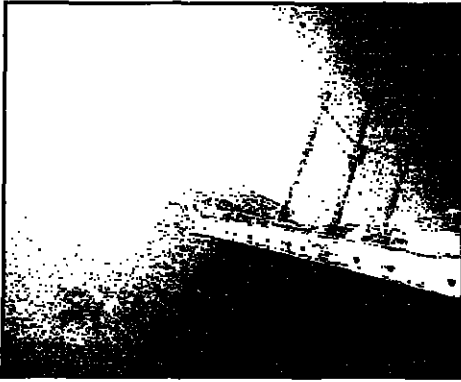


Lew Grade, head of a media dynasty: 'There are only three things that count in life. One is your family. Two is your health and three is relationship' Keith Dobney

HITS AND MISSES FROM LEW GRADE'S 70 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS



The Pink Panther
One of a successful series of films produced by Grade and starring Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau



Raising the Titanic
"It would have been cheaper to lower the Atlantic," Grade said of the biggest turkey in his long career



Crossroads
The TV soap was one of the series that established Grade's ATV as a keystone of the ITV network



The Saint
The Roger Moore vehicle gave ATV a glamorous image to complement the solid character of Crossroads

perience gave him an eye for talent-spotting and moulded his tastes in the kind of light entertainment which came to dominate ITV's schedules. From game shows such as the *Golden Shot* to the *Muppets* to *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* he showed how to transport the world of West End variety theatre to the nation's television screens.

As an agent, his biggest client was Frank Sinatra, at whose request he once sent £12,000 in cash to a hotel in Rome with no questions asked.

When at his peak his vast empire included the Midlands-based ATV broadcaster, ITC, a collection of theatres and the company, Northern Songs, which owned the rights to the Beatles' music.

The famous interlinking ovals of Grade's ATV appeared at the end of classic programmes as diverse as *The Muppets*, *Crossroads*, *The*

Saint and *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*.

He once said creating a television schedule was like making up a variety show: "Make sure you have enough different acts so that at least half will appeal to all the audience."

The television skills of the Grade family were passed down to Lord Grade's nephew Michael, who was chief executive of Channel 4, now chief executive of First Leisure.

After a boardroom battle with the Australian millionaire Roberts Holmes & Court, Lord Grade lost control of his companies and moved into film production in his seventies when he left ATV. He had success with *On Golden Pond* and *The Pink Panther* series. However, his film *Raise the Titanic* was to be one of the most expensive film flops of all time.

So had was *Raise the Titanic* that Clive Kussler, the author of the book it was based on,

claimed to have actually wretched when he first saw the film.

Lord Putnam said yesterday that Grade had left it too late to be a great success in the movies: "He would admit it himself, that his instincts and his taste was 15 years out of date." It was an undying enthusiasm which kept him afloat right up until his recent illness. He was always in his office by 7am and was always looking for another deal. Polygram recognised his value as a deal-maker and talent-spotter and brought him back to be chairman of ITC when they bought the company.

He was also the target of countless affectionate anecdotes (see panel), the best of which was one he once always denied: that to save money on the TV series *Jesus of Nazareth* he ordered that the Messiah be given just six disciples.

Obituary, Review, page 6

HIS LIFE IN HIS WORDS

"The best deal I ever made was marrying my wife Kathie. The next best deals were *Jesus of Nazareth* and the *Muppet Show* - 120 episodes and three movies."

"*Jesus of Nazareth* came after we'd met the Pope - Kathie [Lord Grade's wife] was overjoyed: we were with him for 30 minutes - and I'd just finished the series on Moses. 'Perhaps you will do Jesus next,' he said. So I did: it is a great story."

"I'm an average person and if I think an act is good then the average person will like it. I started in this business as a dancer and I developed a feeling for acts. When you like people you like show business."

"Creating a TV company which will serve the viewer and make money as well depends on making the right judgement about people and then backing them to the hilt. Money isn't everything, but you won't get far without it."

On hearing Pierce Brosnan had only 16 minutes of dialogue in the last *Bond* film:

"They should call them something else instead of actors. People today, they don't have to do any acting. Actors are a side-show. The real movie is about car chases and things being blown up."

"There are only three things that count in life. One is your family. Two is your health and three is relationship. The rest doesn't matter. Money is unimportant as long as you have enough to keep your family contented."

Asked what his epitaph would be: "It will be 'I didn't want to go. And I'm not going.'"

Pubs could stay open to 3am to combat crime

EUROPEANS HAVE always been bemused by our arcane licensing laws whenever they like a late lunch or a drink after the theatre. The police, too, have found closing time problematic as they deal with the nightly bouts of drunken violent crime after last orders.

Now ministers are preparing to back plans to allow Britain's pubs to stay open until 3am to combat the effect of drinking on crime rates in city centres.

In the biggest shake-up in the nation's licensing laws this century, councils will be given the freedom to decide their own closing times for pubs and restaurants in non-residential areas.

The proposals, which are backed by business, are understood to have won the support of the Home Office following studies that showed that up to 50 per cent of city-centre arrests were linked to drunkenness after 11pm.

The public-order issue has emerged as a key influence on ministers during government

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

consultation on the plans to overhaul the licensing system.

More continental opening hours are also seen as a crucial part of efforts to make London and other large cities more attractive to foreign business people. A decision will not be made before next summer. The central change would be to allow zoning within a city so that residential areas are protected, while pubs in high streets and city centres can remain open until 3am at weekends and 1 am on weekdays.

Responsibility for setting hours would rest with local licensing boards rather than magistrates' courts, with the proviso that residents' groups would be allowed to object to some applications.

Last month, the Home Office minister, George Howarth, signalled the Government's enthusiasm for reform when he declared that Britain's 140,000 licensed pubs, clubs and

restaurants should be allowed to stay open round the clock every New Year's Eve. Most of the ideas that have won over ministers stem from the Better Regulation Taskforce, a government body set up to find ways of slashing red tape for business.

The zoning system operates effectively in Edinburgh and the idea's backers want to bring England and Wales into line with Scotland.

A Home Office source said: "There is a long way to go in consultation but it is clear that the public-order issue is a very good reason to relax the law."

A White Paper on the changes is likely next autumn and ministers want a Bill in the Queen's Speech in 2000. Changes would not come into force until 2001.

John Grogan, Labour MP for Selby and chairman of the All-Party Commons Liquor Licensing Reform, said he and his supporters would step up the campaign with a series of parliamentary questions in the

New Year: "Most people would like to have a drink after going to the cinema, theatre or out for a meal," he said.

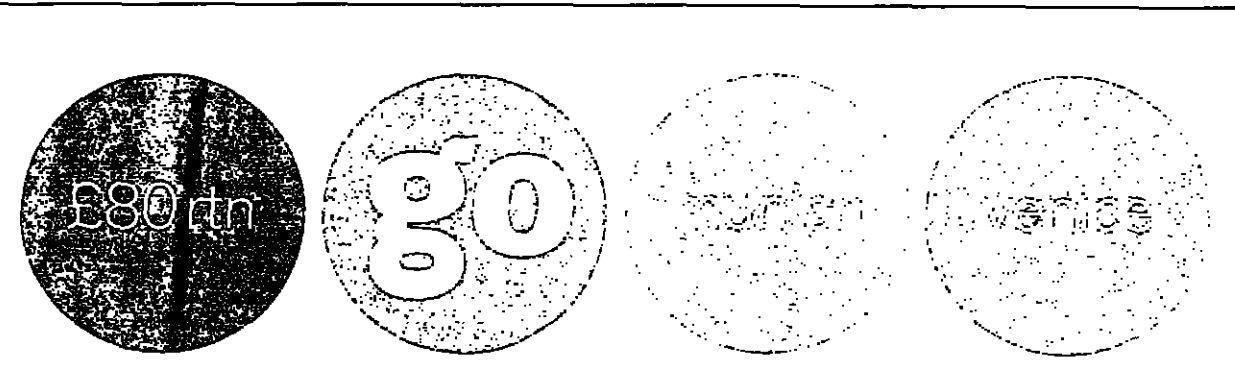
"Relaxing the law would have a civilising influence on English attitudes to drink."

"If you remove the pressure to sink three or four pints in the run-up to closing time, then it is obvious you will cut crime caused by drunkenness."

"In many big cities pubs and clubs are already stretching the law to the limit, staying open by offering food and live entertainment. It is time the law caught up with that reality."

Patrick Kerr, of London First, an umbrella group representing the capital's businesses, said the case for reform was overwhelming.

"We are currently not on the same playing field as other European cities. You can drink until 1am in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Madrid and Paris, so why can't we do it in what is supposed to be the Millennium City?"



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New pensions scheme to be 'radical'

ALISTAIR DARLING, the Secretary of State for Social Security, will this week unveil the Government's long-awaited plans to ensure people make adequate financial provision for their retirement.

Since taking over the difficult welfare brief in July, Mr Darling has spent much of his time tip-toeing through the minefield of pensions reform as he sought to put flesh on the very bare bones of the "stakeholder" scheme promised by Labour.

Mr Darling, who is due to un-

By ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

veil his Green Paper tomorrow believes he has produced a package which is "radical, affordable and credible". But it will not be radical enough for some because, after much agonising, the Government has rejected the idea of forcing people without a personal or company pension to join a compulsory stakeholder scheme.

Mr Darling is frustrated that the pensions debate has been

dominated by the issue of compulsion. This is due largely to the persistence of Frank Field, who resigned as minister for welfare reform when Mr Darling got the top job at the Department of Social Security.

Mr Field wants a universal scheme, believing the rich would be happy to subsidise the contributions of the poor. But Mr Darling believes this would be seen as a backdoor tax hike on the well-off and insists the Field blueprint is unworkable.

"Compulsion is a one-chub

policy," one senior government source said yesterday. "We need a more sophisticated approach which meets individual needs and gives people choice. There is more than one means of achieving the ends."

Mr Darling's scheme may be seen as compulsion in all but name. He planned a "carrot and stick" approach to ensure people realise it is in their financial interest to take out a pension. For example, workers who choose not to provide for their old age even though they could

afford to, will face lower state benefits in retirement than the genuinely poor. This is designed to tackle Mr Field's criticism that without a compulsory system, people have no incentive to provide for themselves because they can rely on the state's safety net.

The Green Paper will contain a stark warning for today's workers, half of whom will have to live on income support in their old age because they have inadequate pension provision. Today, 2.5 million pensioner

families live on less than a third of average earnings, giving them an income of less than £120 a week. The number will double by the year 2025, because 8 million workers are not saving for their retirement.

People need second-tier pensions because the value of the state pension is declining. If the Tories had not stopped uprating it with earnings rather than prices in 1979, it would now be worth £97.85 for a single person and £140.60 for a couple, instead of £64.70 and £103.40 respec-

tively. Although demands by pensioners groups to restore the link with earnings are supported by some Labour MPs and grass-roots activists, ministers will refuse to find the billions needed. They point out that Britain's 10.5 million retired people already receive benefits totalling £3.5bn - a third of the welfare budget - and say they want to target extra help at the poorest among them.

Mr Darling may therefore extend a new guaranteed minimum pension, which will en-

sure an income of at least £7 a week for every single pensioner and £116.60 for a couple from April. A key target is the 1 million old people who do not claim the income support to which they are entitled - many because they are too proud.

But critics claim the scheme is not all that it seems: retired people with other income, such as an occupational pension, will not receive the top-up, but only the basic state pension. Mr Field fears it will be just a glorified form of income support.

Britain's elderly struggle to cope on the edge of poverty

By GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

KATHLEEN GOVINDA has been pacing, deep in thought, in front of the chilled meats counter for five minutes. Finally - and triumphantly - she brandishes a packet of chicken and puts it in her trolley. She has managed to find a piece on special offer at £2.59 rather than the £2.99 she was preparing to pay.

Some time later, after a meticulous search of Sainsbury's, she has managed to get her half-weekly shopping bill down to £14.12 by careful choice of own-brands, special deals and cheap foods.

Ask her the price of a packet of biscuits and she will immediately respond. "They're £1.49 - the cheapest ones. I'd love to buy some sweets. Quality Street is my favourite but again they are too expensive."

Kathleen is one of the millions of elderly people in Britain struggling to cope on the edge of poverty in old age. The Independent's Christmas appeal aims to raise funds for the organisations dedicated to helping old people: Age Concern, Action on Elder Abuse and St Christopher's Hospice.

Kathleen, 74, is continually juggling money - she has to live

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80% of all monies raised through The Independent Christmas Appeal will support the vital work that Age Concern England carries out. As the host charity Age Concern England will distribute in equal shares 20% of all funds raised to St Christopher's Hospice and Action on Elder Abuse (all registered charities).

Please Note: From time to time, Age Concern England would like to allow other reputable organisations to write to its supporters. However, if you prefer not to be contacted by other such organisations, please tick this box. 9880101

AGE Concern
Action on Elder Abuse

on a basic state pension which, topped up by income support, works out at £69.75 a week. Because she is on income support, her council housing rent is paid for. But she still has to pay all her bills, including £8.31 a week on water rates and £6 a week towards a telephone helpline which will summon an ambulance if she falls ill. She has used it twice already.

Every fortnight she pays £4 to a home-help as well.

Keeping the house warm is also a problem, but as one of the poorest pensioners she has received a £50 "cold weather" payment which, she says, was "a great relief. That will pay the bills. I didn't expect it so soon and I feel very lucky." She also spends her days at the Sotheby Mews Centre, an Age Concern project, which helps cut the heating bills.

Kathleen, originally from South Africa, worked hard as a

shop assistant and then a machinist in a factory. Neither employer offered an occupational pension, which would boost her income now.

With a heart condition and arthritis, Kathleen frequently has hospital appointments. This is fine in the middle of the day when she can use her bus pass, but all too often the appointments are scheduled for 8am so she has to pay £5 for a minicab to take her.

Her food is her main outgo-ing and it is extremely frugal - cereal in the morning, then she pays £1.55 for a "filling" meal at Sotheby Mews.

In the evening she will make herself a sandwich or have a piece of toast. "I do like vegetables and I eat a lot of those. I don't eat meat that much but I like chicken and fish at the weekend."

"I am very fond of prawns but they are too expensive to

buy. I look for what's on special offer or deals where if you buy one you get one free."

The centre organises a weekly trip to the supermarket because the more expensive prices in local shops are beyond the reach of most pensioners. Her entertainment is the day centre and her television at home. Her eyes are too bad for her to spend money on newspapers, books or magazines.

"I can't afford to go to the cinema. I prefer to stay in and watch Coronation Street. Sometimes there is a good film on, but you can't sit up waiting for them all night."

"I always watch the news as well. I like to know what is going on in the world."

"I buy essentials. I don't buy luxuries," she says. "Sometimes I feel like having a little treat but it's always too expensive. It is a bit of a struggle."

I do my best to manage. But I always have to work out how much exactly I'm going to spend and stick to it. It's always a big worry."

Her one treat at Christmas is to buy herself a pair of good sensible shoes that will last her until the next Christmas.

"I've just got to think about what I really need rather than what I want," she says wistfully. "There isn't money for things like presents."



74-year-old Kathleen Govinda seeking the specials in Sainsbury's. Her total weekly income of £69.75 doesn't go far

Philip Meech

Twins, 4, told they must start school or lose place

By JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

A MOTHER is fighting a council's insistence that her four-year-old twins must start school next month or lose their places.

Beatrice Shaw says the twins, who will be five in May, are not ready for school. She points to a statement from David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, that parents should not be "blackmailed" into sending their children to school before the statutory starting age of five.

Lewisham Council in south London has told Mrs Shaw that Sam and Jordan must move up from the nursery at John Ball Primary School, Blackheath into the school reception class or their places cannot be guaranteed.

Early years experts say that starting formal education too young can be damaging and put children off education for life. Nursery classes are better staffed than reception classes and have special equipment for young children.

Evidence from Europe suggests that children tend to progress faster in those countries where formal education starts later than in Britain.

However, local authorities are under pressure not to allow



Beatrice Shaw, with Sam (left), Jordan and baby Laurie: 'I feel absolutely desperate'

Richard Oliver

parents to defer places because they receive no funding for children who are not at school.

Mrs Shaw said that she wanted to delay the twins' entry to school at least until Easter and, ideally, until September when they would need, by law, to be in school. "I am absolutely desperate. I feel that my son, in particular, is not ready for school. It's appalling when a young child's life is at stake and you know it will be damaging for him, to be told that you have to send him to school. There should be flexibility for young children. You can't make these blanket rules."

Early years campaigners

say that Mrs Shaw's case is one of a number nationwide, though most parents shun publicity.

Mr Blunkett said on 30 October: "Parents can choose whether or not their children should attend any early years or pre-school setting. That choice should not be curbed by schools effectively blackmailing parents into sending their children to their reception classes to guarantee a place after five."

A spokesman for the Department for Education said that new guidance allowed parents to defer entry to school for up to two terms. "Mr Blunkett is encouraging local authorities to let children start school later if

that is what parents want."

He pointed out that Mr Blunkett had to approve early years development plans for all authorities by April. These would include admission arrangements.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman, said: "The Government has not thought this through. Local authorities are not obliged and schools cannot afford to allow parents to defer entry."

Wendy Scott, chief executive of Early Education, said some schools and local authorities were catering well for four-year-olds. "But this is a very distressing example. It does appear that the rights of parents to make decisions are being forced out by the system."

Margaret Lochrie, chief executive of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, said: "A lot of four-year-olds are not ready for formal education. They need a play-based curriculum which will prepare them for learning to read and write."

A spokesman for Lewisham said: "Children start school in January or September. Mrs Shaw would like us to keep her children in nursery school for an extra term. If we do that, it will block up two places which younger children need. It will also mean we keep vacant two places in the primary school which are very much needed."

Welsh constituencies reject Alun Michael

THE BID by Alun Michael, Secretary of State for Wales, to be elected leader of the Welsh Assembly appeared to be in trouble yesterday when the deadline for nominations closed.

Of the 40 Welsh constituency Labour parties, 22 have nominated Rhodri Morgan, the MP for Cardiff West, with eight backing Mr Michael and the other 10 not stating a preference.

By TONY HEATH

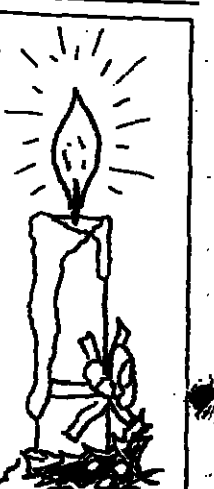
One of the biggest blows to Mr Michael's campaign was delivered by the Blaenau Gwent Party meeting at Ebbw Vale yesterday. Mr Morgan received 66 votes. Mr Michael 27, and Roger Warren Evans, a Swansea businessman, eight.

The result, determined by an electoral college, will be declared on 20 February.

A Christmas Message

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to all our friends who have generously supported our Hospice during 1998. Your donations have helped to bring care, comfort and support to many patients and their families again this year. May we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

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Reckless the day

BRUCE MANN'S experience of a lifetime in the world of the horse has not made him a reckless rider. But he has a reputation for being a bit of a daredevil. He has been known to ride a horse over a fence, and he has been known to ride a horse over a fence. He has been known to ride a horse over a fence. He has been known to ride a horse over a fence.

Christmas no card

IT'S THE ONLY day of the year when the British people are not allowed to send Christmas cards. The reason for this is that the British people are not allowed to send Christmas cards. The reason for this is that the British people are not allowed to send Christmas cards. The reason for this is that the British people are not allowed to send Christmas cards.

1	Aston Villa	17
2	Man Utd	16
3	Chelsea	16
4	Middlesbrough	15
5	Leeds	15
6	Arsenal	15
7	West Ham	14
8	Wimbledon	14
9	Leicester	14
10	Derby	14
11	Nottingham	14
12	Liverpool	14
13	Sheff Wed	14
14	Everton	14
15	Newcastle	14
16	Charlton	14
17	Coventry	14
18	Blackburn	14
19	Notm Forest	14
20	Southampton	14
21	Sunderland	12
22	Ipswich	12
23	Watford	12
24	Birmingham	12
25	Bradford City	12
26	Norwich	12
27	Bolton	12
28	Huddersfield	12
29	Grimsby	12
30	West Brom	12
31	Sheff Utd	12
32	Wolves	12
33	Barnsley	12
34	Crystal Palace	12
35	Bury	12
36	Stockport	12
37	QPR	12
38	Preston	12
39	Swindon	12
40	Tranmere	12
41	Oxford	12
42	Port Vale	12
43	Bristol City	12
44	Crewe	12

Landowner puts walkers on warpath

By PAUL VALLEY

IT WAS a fine day for walking yesterday. The watery winter sun hung low in the sky. The air was mild and a light breeze stirred the branches of the bare winter trees. But there were no ramblers to be seen on the Sussex Downs paths around the High Cross estate.

Across the road at Palehouse Common the footpaths were marked with the official little arrows of the Country Landowners' Association (CLA) announcing a "welcome to careful walkers". But over the road the path came to an abrupt end - at a 7ft-high wire fence with three strands of barbed wire across the top.

"Private Property - Keep Out" said the large notice closing off the footpath, which the Ramblers' Association decided on Saturday to make a test case. It will be in the vanguard of the hikers' campaign to force the government to fulfil its pledge to establish a "right to roam". You might have expected, in the circumstances, a genteel cagouled picket line or even a mass-booted trespass. After all, the local authority map shows a right-of-way exists beyond the barbed wire and the ugly barn which the landowner erected 10 years ago across the path.

But the local walkers have been scared off. There was not a single ramble-with-attitude to be seen. And when I asked the chairman of the local branch of the association to take me to the estate he not only wouldn't come, he wouldn't even speak to me on the phone. "His wife won't let him. She's scared of physical violence," said Paul Rees, the national ramblers' spokesman. "Someone might be sent to get him."

The man of whom everyone is afraid is Nicholas Van Hoogstraten, the oafish millionaire landowner and former



Oafish millionaire Nicholas Van Hoogstraten (above) and the blocked footpath that the Ramblers Association is using as a test case

slum landlord who specialises in making statements of thinly-veiled intimidation. On the *Today* programme on Saturday he said of the hikers, darkly: "I'm not threatening these people. It's just that there may be an occasional incident."

His words gain menace from his background. In the 1960s he was sent to Wormwood Scrubs for four years after hiring thugs to mount a hand-grenade attack on the home of a man he claimed owed him £3,000. Certainly he is not the kind of man you would want living next door. But it is also true that this is a reputation he wilfully cultivates. (Does he really expect us to share his view of tweedy walking types as "riff-raff", "the unwashed" and "disgusting people who don't have any stake in society"?)

It is an unfortunate test case for the ramblers to have chosen. Had they gone for the country's biggest landowner, the Duke of Westminster, they could have had an interesting debate on the political balance between private property and

the common good. Had they approached Lord Savile, or some other big wheel in the CLA, they could have thrashed out whether the townies' mass search for rural solitude is inevitably doomed to being a self-frustrating activity.

Instead they have chosen Old Nick - a man in whose name the aristocratic Dutch prefix "van" confers as much dignity as it does when it precedes the word rental. This is a man who has often sought to enhance his own notoriety, giving outrageous quotes to enthusiastic journalists: admitting to "bashing" a few of his tenants, but insisting they were "scumbags" who had it coming; insisting that you had to be "a liar, crook and cheat" to succeed in business; or writing an article claiming he used to beat up his mother. They are claims which he tends to withdraw when challenged on the detail.

The tactic works. At the weekend a member of his local parish council fulminated that he "appears immune from normal planning controls". Build-



Nigel Bowles

ings appear, public footpaths disappear, neighbours are threatened, enforcement officers are ejected and alterations abound without any input from us."

But fact and myth are entangled here too. Wealdon District Council insists that Mr Van

Hoogstraten is subject to planning laws like everyone else; officials are due to rule in the next few days on his request for amendments to the plans for the 126,000 sq ft mansion he calls Hamilton Palace which he is building on the estate overlooking the Uckfield by-pass.

It is said to be the most expensive private house to be built in Britain this century. But despite its £30m price-tag, only half a dozen people are working on it, according to locals.

None of which is to say that Mr Van Hoogstraten is not a nasty piece of work. Only that

his nastiness might this time not get him as far as it has before. The decision by the Ramblers' Association to begin legal proceedings has called his bluff. But it may yet take the intervention of local, or even national, government before the footpath is open once again.

SPENDING POWER

THE Third Reich was supposed to last 1,000 years. Nicholas Van Hoogstraten has larger ambitions. The palace that he is building on his estate in East Sussex has been designed to last for five millennia.

But this former slum landlord has always thought big. He bought his first property, in the Bahamas, at the age of 16 with money he made from selling his stamp collection. By 23, he was a millionaire, with 350 properties in Sussex alone. Hamilton Palace, nearing completion on his High Cross Estate, is intended to be the largest and most expensive private home built in Britain this century. It will include a vast mausoleum to house his remains and a 600ft-long art gallery.

Van Hoogstraeten, who owns homes in Cannes, Monte Carlo, Maryland and Florida, already has a place in the Guinness Book of Records. In 1981 he received a tax demand for £5.4 million, the largest ever issued by the Inland Revenue. The public will never be allowed into Hamilton Palace, he has said. After his death, the building will be sealed forever. He explained: "The only purpose in creating great wealth like mine is to separate oneself from the riff-raff."

Move made to halt hoarding for 2000

THE CABINET Office yesterday sought to dissuade people from hoarding food next year over fears about the millennium bug, saying there is "no reason to expect" disruption to supermarkets or essential services.

But *The Independent* has learnt that next year Action 2000, the official group charged with getting businesses to tackle the bug, intends running an advertising campaign to "frighten" people over the possibilities of the problem, which, experts, could lead to the loss of millions of jobs.

The Cabinet Office's move followed a newspaper report yesterday quoting Gwyneth Flower, head of Action 2000, suggesting people stock up with long-life milk, tinned food and biscuits - "the sort of common-sense provisions you would automatically do to ensure against any potential emergency".

Action 2000 called the report "misleading" and said "there is no need for anyone to consider stockpiling", adding that there is "no reason to expect material disruption" to

By CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

electricity, gas, phone, financial or water services caused by the bug. The problem arises because many computer programs only check the last two digits of the year date. Unless changed, they could fail unpredictably in dealing with events in 2000. Many businesses have taken remedial action.

But the Government recognises the importance of preventing panic. If everybody in the UK buys a fortnight's stock of food in the last week of 1999, retailers might not be able to cope. In the US, the American Red Cross's advice about the bug includes stocking up on "disaster supplies" of food, filling up car petrol tanks and drawing extra cash. Similar advice appears on the Web for Taskforce 2000, the British predecessor to Action 2000.

Last night, the Cabinet Office said that in the UK the matter was related more to expected celebrations than widespread computer failure. "It's not really

a bug issue. We are probably talking about a 10 or 11-day holiday at the end of 1999," said a spokesman. "The American Red Cross were saying that because of the holiday period people will have to stock up on essential items because the shops won't be open."

But the Cabinet Office is doing a survey to evaluate bug awareness and plans a mass leafletting campaign in spring. Last month, Action 2000 produced a leaflet for households suggesting ways to check if they would be affected, and is planning an advertising campaign emphasising the unavoidable deadline. The last time Britons hoarded supplies was in the 1970s, during random power cuts.

Robin Guenier, head of Taskforce 2000, criticised Action 2000's tactics: "A little bit of panic might be a good idea. If people get used to the idea of this, that could be helpful. But having one thing said one day and another the next just creates a lack of confidence."

Leading article, Review, page 3

MILLENNIUM BUG: MYTHS AND REALITIES

Myth 1: Aircraft will fall out of the sky.

Reality: If insurance companies are not confident enough to cover them to fly in that period, they will be grounded. The question then becomes - what will the effect be on the world economy if no aircraft fly for days or weeks?

Myth 2: We will all be popping champagne at midnight on 31 December and the lights will go out.

Reality: The lights at least should stay on, as will other essential services - subject, of course, to whatever extra load the celebrations impose.

Myth 3: Everything that goes wrong will go wrong



at that "rollover" moment.

Reality: Some problems have arisen (and been resolved) and more are going to crop up next year, especially in April, when the 99/00 financial year starts. The effect may be like a snow flurry turning into a blizzard - at first it seems amusing, then it becomes dangerous.

Myth 4: My video is going

to get microwaved as everything in my home goes haywire.

Reality: Most electronic items in the home use a 24-hour rollover clock, so most items will notice no difference. A few videos could be affected: mostly these are very ancient models.

Myth 5: Nuclear power stations will blow up.

Reality: It is far more likely that if anyone is worried, they will be taken off-line and shut down instead, though that could have a significant effect at a time when power demand is traditionally high.

Charles Arthur, and Robin Guenier of Taskforce 2000

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THE GIFT OF READING

Hospitals warned of blood shortage

EVERY HOSPITAL in England has been issued with instructions on how to conserve blood to head off a crisis in the National Blood Service.

Hospitals need 10,000 half-litre units of blood a day and demand is rising at a time when donors are proving harder to find. Pressure to meet Government waiting list targets combined with declining public confidence in blood because of safety fears has pushed the service to the limit.

In a circular to the NHS on blood issued on Friday, the

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

health department says all hospitals must establish new rules for blood transfusion and seek ways of using patients' own blood to reduce dependence on that given by donors by March 2000.

The latest move to shore up the ailing National Blood Service comes after a year in which it has suffered major blows. In July the Government announced that all donated blood would be screened for

CJD, more than doubling the cost of collecting it to £83.50 a unit.

Earlier, in February, the Government ruled that all blood products should be made from plasma imported from abroad, slashing an important source of income for the service. Public confidence had already been damaged by earlier rows about the sale of blood plasma to other countries, a scandal involving leaking blood bags, and an unpopular reorganisation which was the subject of a damning report earlier this

year, which led to the sacking of the chairman and the departure of the chief executive.

The blood service was so worried about the effect on donors that it commissioned a report from the Kings Fund on attitudes to altruism published last month. It claimed in the report that there was "no evidence that the donor pool was shrinking dramatically" but admitted that increasing numbers of would-be donors were being rejected because of more stringent checks, for example because they might be at risk

of HIV or hepatitis. Demand for blood is rising at 3 to 4 per cent a year as hospitals treat more patients. Ministers have a manifesto pledge to cut waiting lists and have committed hundreds of millions of pounds to the cause. That means more patients to be treated, more operations performed and more blood used.

The circular says there is wide variation among doctors over the amount of blood ordered suggesting some are "used unnecessarily".

It says transfusion commit-

tees should be set up to monitor blood use in every hospital and introduce protocols to reduce wastage and improve safety.

Of 169 "serious hazards" reported last year, it says 81 involved patients being given the wrong blood while only eight involved infection.

Alternatives to the use of donated blood include autologous blood transfusion, in which patients give blood several weeks before their operation which is stored and then given back to them during surgery. However,

there is no evidence that this method reduces adverse events happening or demand, the circular says.

A second option is cell salvage, in which patients' blood is collected during the operation, washed, and given back to them. The equipment needed is expensive but the circular says the method, already in use in several NHS trusts, will become more affordable as the cost of collecting donor blood rises.

Clare Rayner, chair of the Patients Association which advised on the circular, said:

"There is a crisis. Demand for blood is ever increasing and the number of donors being excluded for safety reasons is rising. There is a real problem."

A spokesman for the health department said: "What we are trying to achieve is better use of an invaluable resource which is not in plentiful supply."

"We will continue to appeal for more blood donations as the NHS gets through more work. But we need to explore every single way of making better use of what we have got."

Europe set to curb farm antibiotics

THE MINISTER of Agriculture, Nick Brown, is expected to vote today with European farm ministers to ban four antibiotics from use in animal feed, amidst growing opposition to the widespread use of the drugs.

The EU's farming chief, Franz Fischler, proposed the ban after being told by scientific experts that antibiotics were becoming less effective as medical treatments because people were ingesting them in meat and creating bacteria resistant to them.

The antibiotics are fed to battery-farmed animals to encourage growth and deter long-standing infections. Pharmaceutical companies, which stand to lose £220m if the ban comes into force in January, have mounted a fierce lobbying campaign against it.

The purpose of the EU ban is "to minimise the risk of development of (antibiotic) resistant bacteria and to preserve the efficacy of antibiotics used in human medicine". No new antibiotics have been developed since the Seventies, and more and more "resistant" strains of bacteria are appearing in hospitals, where doctors are forced to keep back certain varieties of drugs as measures of last resort. Now the spiralling use of antibiotics in agriculture has triggered fears that animal use will also affect humans. Already, one type of the food poisoning bacterium salmonella - often found in eggs - is now resistant to more than one antibiotic, while many other types of it are immune to up to five drugs.

A report last week by the Soil Association, which represents organic farmers in the UK, found that the use of antibiotics

BY CHARLES ARTHUR AND
CATHY COMERFORD

such as tetracycline and penicillin had increased by up to 150 times in the past 30 years, even though it was meant to fall. "We must create a new climate... in which animals are kept in more natural, less stressful conditions and are routinely treated with respect, rather than antibiotics," it said.

The drugs companies have responded rapidly. Alpharma, a multinational company which makes one of the four antibiotics under threat - bacitracin - commissioned Dutch research which, it said, "found the use of bacitracin as a feed additive in animals does not cause adverse human health effects".

Pfizer, which makes another of the listed antibiotics - virginiamycin - is suing the Danish government over its decision to ban the product from cattle feed. It has also lodged a protest with the EC objecting to the proposed Europe-wide ban. Virginiamycin is added to feed to promote growth. But it also has similar properties to another antibiotic combination, quinupristin/dalfopristin, which doctors had hoped could be used to treat resistant infections in humans. The antibiotics on the EU list are: bacitracin, virginiamycin, spiramycin and tylosin phosphate.

Fefana, which represents feed manufacturers, said adding antibiotics to animal food "is safe and has contributed significantly to improvements in animal welfare".

Yesterday a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said Britain will vote "based on the scientific evidence".



Mick Nash gets ready for the unveiling of a digital sign to replace the Coca-Cola neon display which has hung in London's Piccadilly Circus for 44 years Neville Elder

Man dies, 3 missing as dinghy capsizes

THE TINY community of Iona was in mourning yesterday after one man drowned and another three were feared dead when a dinghy capsized off the Scottish island.

The men were travelling home to Iona after attending a dinner and dance on the neighbouring island of Mull when their dinghy overturned in the early hours in blustery conditions. The alarm was raised by a fifth man who managed to swim ashore.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

The emergency services searched for the men using lifeboats and two helicopters, one of which was scrambled from the Royal Naval Air Station at Gannet. The underwater unit of Strathclyde Police was also assisting.

The body of one of the five men was discovered washed ashore and several items of men's clothing was discovered. "We have been searching for

them all day but there is no sign. By this stage you have to say hopes are fading," said a spokesman for HM Coastguard last night.

The alarm was raised at 4.15am yesterday after the survivor, Gordon Grant, the son of a local businessman scrambled ashore and woke up a farmer. Mr Grant was yesterday being treated for hypothermia at a hospital on Tobermory, Mull.

The man whose body was re-

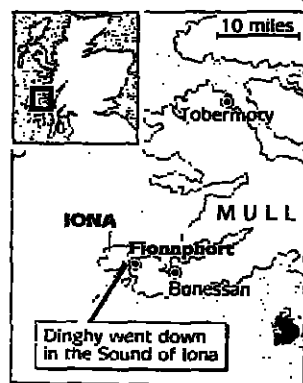
covered was named last night as Robert Hay, 23, of Iona. The men who remain missing were named as Logie MacFadyen, 24, of Laggan Dorain; Alisdair Dougal, 19, of Iona and David Kilpatrick, 23, of Iona.

They were returning from a dance at the Argyll Arms Hotel at Bunessan and had launched their 14ft dinghy from the tiny port of Fionnphort to return across the Sound of Iona, about half-a-mile.

Islanders yesterday spent

the day helping the rescue services. The community, famous for its role in the spread of Christianity, usually numbers around 200.

"Everybody on Iona will be devastated, stunned," said Argyll Arms proprietor Duncan MacLeod. "We know the lads reasonably well. One of the lads wasn't drinking at all, and some of the others were going out fishing today. I certainly would not say they were drunk when they left."



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IN BRIEF

Call for GM food moratorium

GREEN GROUPS have renewed calls for the Government to impose a moratorium on the commercial release of genetically modified foods after a report written for the Department of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture said the crops posed a threat to the environment.

Old woman hammers burglar

A BURGLAR pleaded to be let out of an 81-year-old woman's home when she began beating him on the head with a hammer. The burglar had forced his way into the woman's house in Billingham, near Middlesbrough, on Saturday night, armed with a piece of wood.

Labour Party merger in Ireland

IRELAND'S LABOUR Party has set itself the target of becoming the second largest party in the state following its weekend merger with the radical Democratic Left. Labour leader Ruairi Quinn said it was now "feasible" to aim for over 40 Dail seats in the next general election.

£75,000 cost of young offenders

THE AVERAGE young offender in custody costs Britain more than £75,000, with the total cost at least £190m, says the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders and The Prince's Trust. They say raising educational performance would be more cost-effective.

27 held in immigration inquiry

POLICE YESTERDAY arrested 27 foreign nationals after they were seen getting out of three Spanish-registered lorries parked on the M40. The men, women and children, believed to be illegal immigrants, were detained on the hard shoulder near Postcombe, Oxon.

One ticket wins Lottery £9m

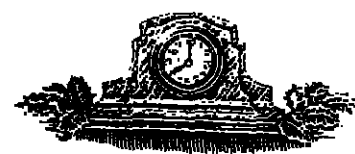
A SINGLE ticket holder scooped Saturday's £9,110,738 National Lottery jackpot. The numbers were 46, 38, 28, 41, 26 and 39. The bonus ball was 25.

STEVE RICHARDS

With this Government,
keep your eye on the
reality, not the rhetoric

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

JUST WHEN THE
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Eng

CONDITIONS HAVE become pressing again at A... and after the heat ca... the cold discomfort of an E... has been replaced by a... can sometimes be mislead... the loss of seven wickets... so many that no amount... so many that no amount... a leggie is going to... to decide it.

As at Perth the extra b... has yet to prove his w... this time it was extrava... from the w... mainly from the w... Stuart MacGill, w... indeed, only Nasser H... left unbeaten on 89, M... Ramprakash, who scored a... 61, and Michael Ath... who made 41 on Saturday... into double figures.

The rest were a sorry... domination of thoughts... crosses an indication of... of pulling shot selection... and... their proof that county cricket... not much of a breeding gro... when it comes to robust c... actors.

The tendency of Englan... to collapse is not n... the performances of the... batsmen have been p... are batsmen and during... particularly dire and during... first Test in Brisbane, the f... four wickets for 15 runs... Perth was worse still w... just 31 runs in the first inn... and in the second. Here t... mustered 17 in their first... innings, a collapse that o... again left a batsman, in... case Hussar, stranded with... support.

Reasons if you accept... these particular players... not entirely harmless, are... difficult to pin down. Whe... comes the practice and ph... preparation, Graham Go... the kind of man who lea... to stone unturned. Englan... bowlers have diligently p... their batting on this t... Mind you, an evidence b... the middle of the day, thi... has been proved as the corv... of the situation, that prac... make perfect. The same... also be applied to their ca... ing, which has been equ... rest.

Perhaps that is the prob... over-practice highlights... importance of the activity to...

WIND

THE WINDY WEDNESDAY... des, 24 down in the se... against South Africa after a... second Test defeat, suffi... a new blow yesterday w... their opening batsman F... Wallace was diagnosed... glandular fever.

"Phil has a bout of gla... lar fever and we will be kee... a close eye on him over the... few days," the West Indies... manager, Clive Lloyd, said... But Lloyd said he was... considering calling for a... placement at this stage as... lace could recover in tim... play in the third Test, w... starts at Kingsmead in Dur... on 26 December. Wallace die... play in the second Test a...

Kerly c

SEAN KERLY, with a 6... minute goal, capped ano... fine Canterbury display as... beat Brooklands 7-0 yesterd... so into the mid-season break... points ahead of Cannock at... top of the Premier Division... art Humphries, who opene... went on to complete his hat-... with David Mathews, De... Lyle and Mark Hollingw... completing the scoring... Bobby Crutchley returne... something like his old f...

Skylark to join roll call of the extinct

SKYLARKS, SONG thrushes and water voles, some of the most potent symbols of the countryside, will all vanish from Britain in the next few years, the World Wide Fund for Nature claims in a report today.

So rapid has been their recent decline that their extinction can now be foreseen, the WWF says, and it is unavoidable unless drastic steps are taken to save them.

In *Doomsday for Wildlife*, the fund predicts a swathe of extinctions across the United Kingdom. It takes the rates of decline of seven familiar British wildlife species and projects them forward - in most cases they hit zero alarmingly soon.

Skylarks, which have been catastrophically affected by changes in farming practice, will disappear in 2009 if nothing is done to reverse their deterioration, the WWF says.

Song thrushes, which 25 years ago were one of our most common birds and are now increasingly rare, will go even

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

earlier, by 2006. And the water vole - loved as Ratty in Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in The Willows*, but a species now much reduced by American mink which have escaped from fur farms - will disappear earlier still, by 2003.

Other species are also on the "disappearing list". The high brown fritillary butterfly will go in five years' time, while the pipistrelle bat will be extinct by 2007, the WWF says.

The grey partridge will be gone by 2011 while another butterfly, the marsh fritillary, is on course for extinction by 2020.

The causes of many of the declines are changes in agricultural techniques, such as the move to winter crops and greater pesticide use, and the change from haymaking to silage. With silage, the grass is cut in June while species are still nesting, rather than in Au-

gust, when they are finished.

The WWF says that it has used the Government's figures to plot the rates of decline, and that the moves towards extinction are expected to accelerate over the next 20 years, with the effects of climate change, growing development pressures and the continued

threat of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy.

The only way of halting the declines, it says, is to introduce as a matter of urgency added protection for the disappearing habitats that the species depend upon.

"The dramatic decline and extinction of our native species

is a sad reflection of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and its inability to protect our natural heritage," said Carol Hatton, the planning officer for the WWF-UK. "We must have stronger legal protection before it's too late."

The WWF said it was disappointed that a new wildlife Bill

was not introduced this year and is calling for wildlife legislation to be included in the 1999 Queen's Speech.

However, this will come too late for some species. The WWF is announcing today that a British bee, the short-haired bumble bee, is now extinct.

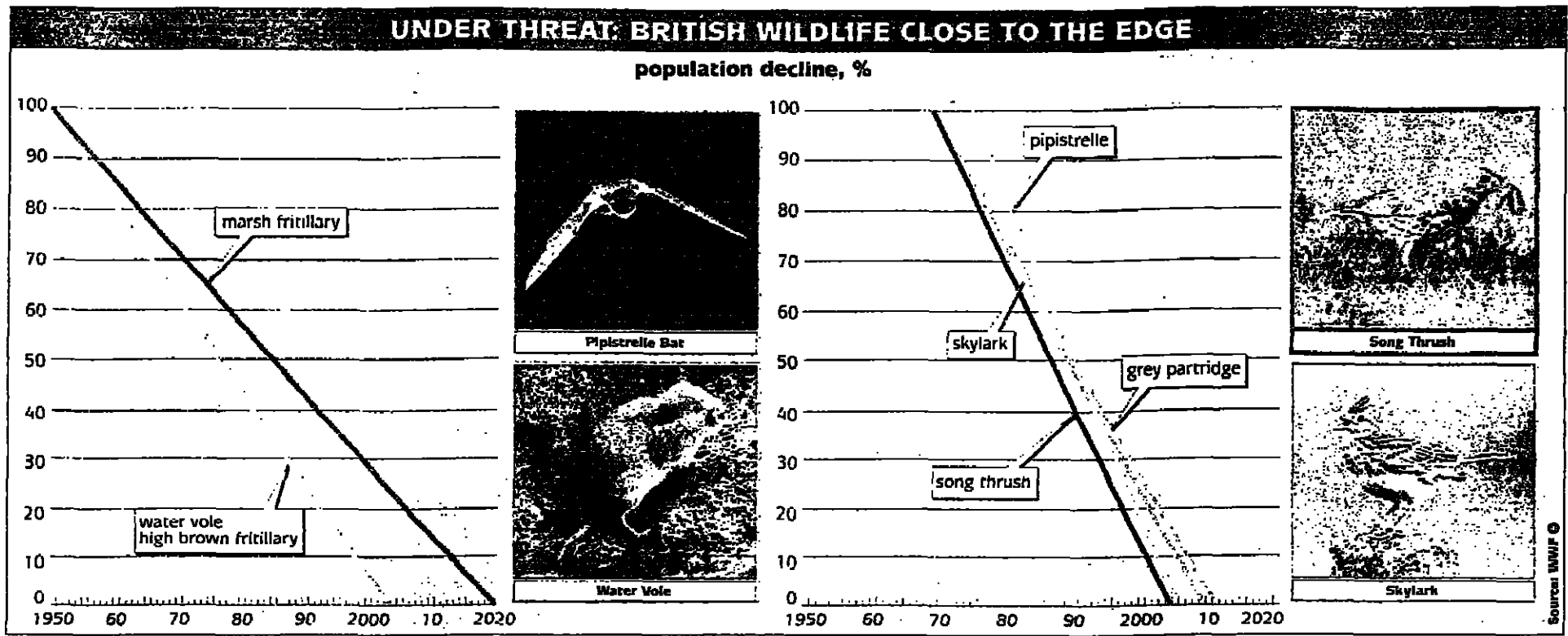
The last reported sighting

was near Dungeness in Kent in the early Eighties and after two years of intensive survey work, no trace of the insect was found.

The total number of wildlife species to have become extinct in Britain this century is now 154, the WWF says.

These include flowers such as the alpine butterwort (1900)

and summer lady's tresses (1954); insects such as the dainty damselfly (1953) and the Essex emerald moth (1991); and many other species, including mammals (the mouse-eared bat, 1990) birds (the Kentish plover, 1935) and fish (the burbot, some time in the Seventies).



Patients 'face genetic tests exploitation'

LACK OF funds to pay for genetic testing on the NHS will create a thriving market for private companies to exploit anxious patients, according to a report published today by a social policy think-tank.

The Institute for Public Policy Research claimed that the NHS was "sleepwalking into a genetic future" because of its lack of planning over new tests that will soon become widely available.

"Unless the NHS acts swiftly it could be usurped by private companies providing 'inappropriate' genetic tests to anxious patients via post and the Internet. This is already apparent in the US," the institute said.

"Driven by profit, private companies have no obligation to provide essential counselling and after-care treatment... The NHS is well placed to provide genetic testing and counselling, but has so far lacked a coherent strategy for doing so."

Doctors already use a number of genetic tests for a limited range of inherited disorders, such as cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease and certain cancers that run in families.

However, new developments in human genetics are also likely to produce tests that can predict a person's predisposition to diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and Alzheimer's disease.

Jo Lenaghan, the author of the report, *Brave New NHS*, said the NHS almost exclusively carried out all the genetic testing in Britain, with the family doctor acting as the "gatekeeper" to the service.

"Yet what if this gateway to genetic services is kept shut, and the NHS is unable or unwilling to meet predicted demand?" she said. The failure

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

could provide the opportunity for the private sector to exploit the demand without bearing any of the NHS obligations to provide essential counselling and after-care treatment, the report said.

A commercial market in genetic tests could inflate inappropriate demand, fuel public anxiety, leave the NHS to pick up the pieces, and fail to respect confidentiality, said the institute.

A separate report by the Wellcome Trust, the largest research charity in Britain, found that some families affected by genetic disorders have already felt unfairly discriminated against by the insurance industry. A survey of 7,000 family members found that a third of those sampled experienced difficulty obtaining life insurance, yet 13 per cent of these cases posed no higher-than-average risk.

Tom Wilkie, head of bioethics at the trust, said this was the first study to investigate British genetic discrimination in relation to insurance. "It demonstrates that the public do perceive an element of discrimination against them because of their genetic status. Yet the inconsistency of insurance companies indicates error when interpreting genetic test results, not a corporate policy of discrimination," Mr Wilkie said.

The trust and the institute both agreed that the social and ethical problems raised by genetic testing will become more acute over the next decade when new tests are developed to assess illnesses influenced by more than one gene.

Asylum-seeker in last-ditch appeal

A BUSINESSMAN who has lived in Britain for 16 years after being abandoned by his family when he was a teenager, should learn today whether he will be deported back to Nigeria.

Today's hearing at the Court of Appeal is the last chance for Ben James, a 29-year-old commodities broker, to remain in Britain. He said yesterday that he would rather die than go back to Nigeria, where he has

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

no family or any home to go to. Despite a government announcement in July that all asylum-seekers who arrived before 1993 would be given leave to stay, immigration officers are pressing to deport Mr James, arguing his case was being examined before the switch in policy.

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As the 10th anniversary of the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 nears, the case against the Libyan 'bombers' is challenged

Key Lockerbie evidence 'is flawed'

KEY EVIDENCE against the two Libyans accused in the Lockerbie case is flawed, according to experts. Law professor Robert Black, of the University of Edinburgh, says that he has doubts that the trial should go ahead at all.

"If we were concerned with an ordinary crime committed on a Friday or Saturday night anywhere in Scotland, the relevant prosecution authorities would have marked to papers 'no prosecution'," he says.

Professor Black's comments are part of a Channel Four Dispatches programme, to be shown on Thursday, which raises serious concerns over the central planks of the prosecution case.

By PAUL LASHMAR

Professor Black has been closely involved in the lengthy international negotiations to allow the two men to get a proper trial. Charges against the two Libyans, Ali Basset al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimma, were laid in November 1991 after a three-year criminal investigation by Scottish police assisted by an FBI team.

At the time of the bombing, both men were working as officials for Libyan Arab Airlines in Malta. The prosecution will claim they smuggled a bomb in an unaccompanied suitcase into Malta airport's luggage transfer system and that suit-

case was transferred on to Pan Am flight 103 at Heathrow.

The central plank of the evidence against the two men hinges on a tiny fragment of electronic circuit board found in the baggage of the crash plane. At the time of the 1991 charges, the head of the FBI forensic laboratory, Tom Thurman, went on television across the world to say that the fragment was identical to timing devices sold by a Swiss electronics company, Mebo, to Libya prior to the bombing.

However the new evidence challenges the claim that the fragments are identical. Edward Bollier of Mebo, has examined the FBI photographs

and says that fragment is not from the production version supplied to Libya. "I can now say for certain that they fragment does not come from one of the timers we sold to Libya," Mr Bollier says. It probably comes from one of three prototype versions. Two were sold to Institute of Technical Research in East Germany. "We now know that institute was a technical workshop for the Stasi," says Bollier. The third unfinished prototype was stolen.

If Mr Bollier's close connections to the Libyans makes him an imperfect witness, his evidence is supported by an independent British forensic expert, Owen Lewis.

An FBI agent, Tom Thurman, who has now left the agency, was criticised for inadequate supervision of his staff and for altering forensic reports.

Professor Black has studied the evidence so far made public and is concerned that the indictment could fall short of the standards Scottish law demands. "I can foresee certain very difficult issues. There are certain gaping holes in the theory, the scenario upon which the Crown case against these two Libyans is based, and unless these holes can be plugged then there is not a chance of a successful prosecution."

The Channel Four programme also challenges the

prosecution case that the bomb originated in Malta. Tags on the clothes within the bomb suitcase show they were of Maltese origin and sold in only one shop in Malta. The shop owner was shown a series of photographs of Arab men and is said to have picked out Mr al-Megrahi as the purchaser of the clothes. But close examination of his 19 statements to police show that the shop owner consistently said the man was much older and taller than either of the two Libyans.

The prosecution alleges that the bomb was in an unaccompanied case put on a plane in Malta and transferred onto flight 103. But the general man-

ager of Air Malta, Wilfred Borg, says: "I'm not ruling out that mistakes can be made. But if there were any mistakes on the day we would have had a claim for a missing bag."

Again, if this is correct it would lend further credence to the alternative theory that the suitcase was put on at Frankfurt by Ahmed Jabril's terror group, FLPG-CG, on behalf of the Iranians.

After the USS Vincennes shot down the Iranian Airbus in July 1988 the then Iranian Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi repeatedly said blood would rain down in revenge.

By mid-October 1988, Mr Jabril's bomb maker, the Jor-

danian Marwan Kireesat, had been dispatched to Germany and had assembled five bombs, built into Toshiba radio-cassette players, designed to detonate at altitude. The German police followed Mr Kireesat. On 26 October, he and 14 other PFLP-GC suspects were arrested in an operation code-named "Autumn Leaves". One bomb was seized. At least one, and possibly two more bombs, were not found.

It is alleged that Mr Jabril switched the suitcase of a passenger on Pan Am 103, a Lebanese-born American, Khalid Jafar, who was a member of a major drug producing family from Lebanon's Bekaa valley.

THE RESIDENT



Maxwell Kerr: 'I want some answers' Colin McPherson

MAXWELL KERR opened his door in Rosebank Crescent to find the sky on fire. "There was a brilliant orange ball of fire above us. My sleeves were up and I could feel the heat on my arms. Drops were coming from the ball of fire and landing all around."

When the pictures on the living room wall started shaking and ornaments jumped about just after 7pm, Mr Kerr's first thought had been of the main West Coast railway, which runs through the centre of Lockerbie. As he and neighbours rushed on to the street, they next suspected it might be one of the RAF fighters that exercised over the Borders hills. "But up the street we found containers of food. Those bread rolls were scattered around. My nephew found a passport. Then we knew it wasn't an RAF jet."

Mr Kerr found the first body on the pavement at the top of the street. "It was a girl she had red hair and was wearing blue jeans. Then I turned her over and saw she was black."

The woman, curled in a ball and with no marks on her, was one of dozens of students from Syracuse University, New York, to perish on Pan Am Flight 103. Their party had been in the central part of the Boeing 747 - a 60-foot section of which crashed into the small housing estate of

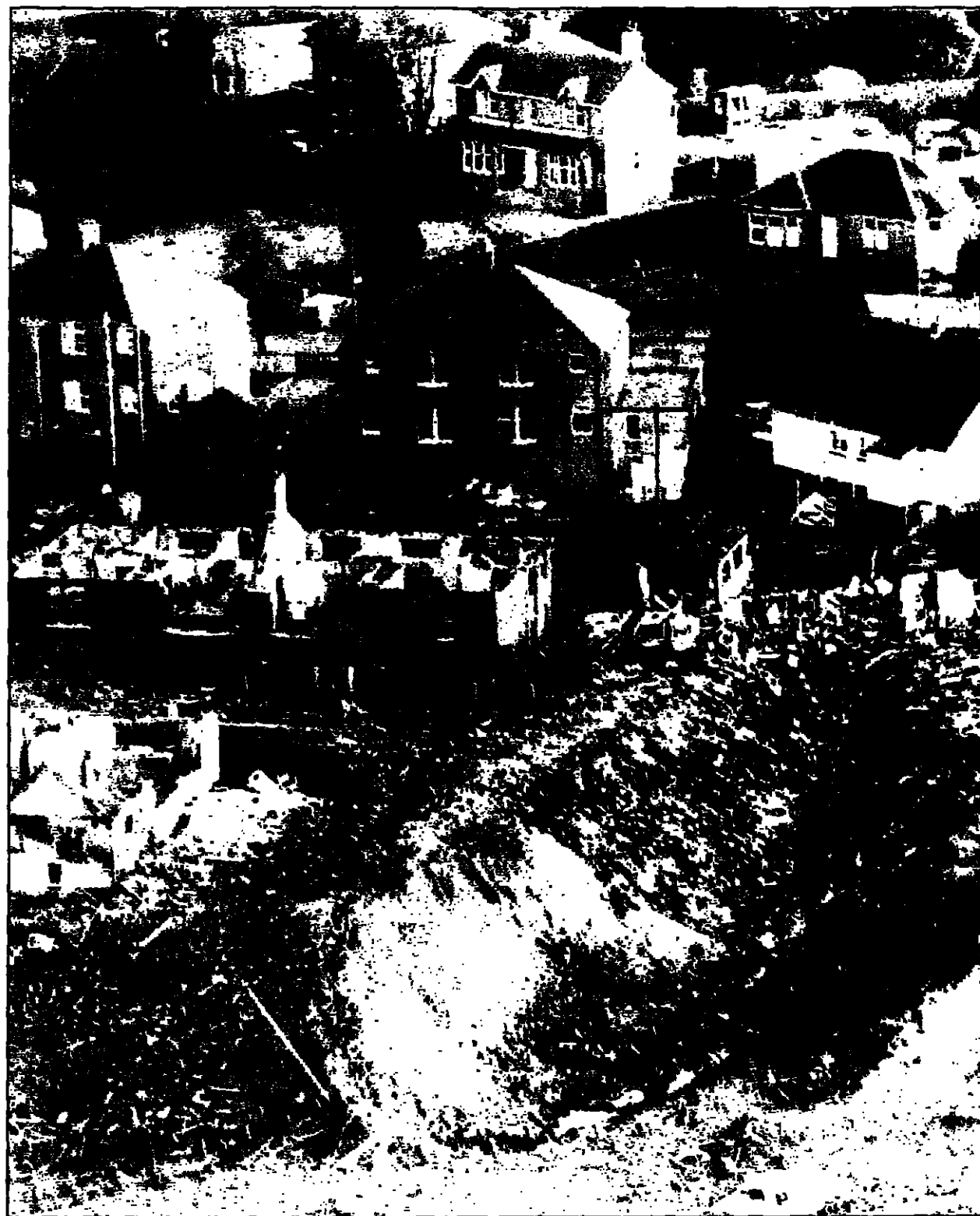
Rosebank Crescent and Park Place. Sixty-two bodies were strewn about the gardens.

Mr Kerr, a Lockerbie man all his 63 years, understood later the drops from the fireball were kerosene, spewing from a fuel-laden wing headed for Sherwood Crescent where 11 people died in their homes. "Everything was incinerated. That's what one boy saw as he was going to a friend's to get his bicycle repaired. He turned round and the whole thing exploded in front of him... his mother, father and sister... no more."

Mr Kerr became chairman of the Rosebank residents' group as the town pulled together. He was awarded a British Empire Medal, has met the Queen and Prince Charles and made friends with Americans who make regular pilgrimages to the memorials.

"We're a large family and we talked our way through it, that and the hard work."

He and his neighbours will never forget the night the sky blazed. But they believe a trial of the two Libyans, and better still a full inquiry into the bombing, would close an over-long chapter. "We thought it would all end following the first anniversary. But now I want some answers," Mr Kerr said. "There's a lot of people in Lockerbie want answers."



A great gouge of earth and wrecked houses in Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, showing the path of the Pan Am airliner that crashed on 21 December, 1988

THE VICTIM'S FAMILY

"I HAD dropped my daughter at Heathrow and driven back to our home in Worcestershire," says the Rev John Mosey. "We were watching the TV news bulletin about an aircraft coming down in Scotland and it didn't connect. Then they said the flight number and my wife Lisa said, 'That was Helga's flight'. Our son Marcus, who was 15, just kept saying 'no, no, no'. My wife was saying, 'Helga, Helga, Helga'. She hated the idea that she couldn't be there when her daughter most needed her. We then stood together and prayed and asked God to help us."

The Moseys are part of a close-knit religious community, the Assemblies of God, for whom John is a minister. As soon as word got around friends flooded in to comfort them. "In the next two hours 40 people came by. In a fortnight over 600 people came to see us. We prayed. Some of the people fell apart at the seams and we

had to help them," Rev Mosey recalls.

Helga Mosey was 19 when Flight 103 was blown out of the sky; she had just left school and was taking a year out before studying music at Lancaster University. She was returning to her nanny job in New Jersey.

Five days after the disaster John Mosey sat alone at his daughter's desk. "I realised that I could not scream for revenge. That would make me no better than they. I realised this was the test of our Christian faith. Evil gave us a platform."

The family started a fund for third-world causes. There is now an orphanage in the Philippines named after Helga Mosey, supported by the fund. "These children would not have lived if Helga had not died," said Rev Mosey.

The Moseys have also been central figures in the UK Families Flight 103 group, and last week went to 10 Downing

Street as part of the delegation to see Tony Blair.

The Moseys were affected by their daughter's death in very different ways. "My wife's blood pressure went up and she still has to be on medication. For me it was a more emotional reaction. At first I was fine and up front, but eight years later I more or less had a breakdown. "I am a lot better now. My wife and I had to have psychiatric reports for the damages case. It showed we both had post-traumatic stress disorder. We miss our daughter terribly. We still have bad days and we call these Helga days."

They remain close to a number of Helga's schoolfriends. "I think we have had an influence on some of her friends. I think her death stopped one or two in their tracks. However, we sometimes find it very sad when they get married or have children, which Helga would now be doing had she lived."

TAM DALYELL was the first MP to raise the disaster in the House of Commons. Shortly after the news broke he interrupted a debate on the Official Secrets Act to ask for a government statement. The initial statement came at 10.12pm on 21 December 1988, three hours after the explosion.

Mr Dalyell visited the site on day three. Lockerbie is 40 miles from his constituency. "I was horrified by what I saw," he says. The crater of what was Sherwood Crescent was still smouldering and wreckage was strewn across the countryside.

Mr Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, was a fully paid-up member of Parliament's awkward squad, already known for campaigning against the then Tory government on such issues as the sinking of the Argentine cruiser *Belgrano* during the Falklands conflict.

INTERVIEWS BY PAUL LASHMAR AND STEPHEN GOODWIN

THE MP

He says his first inkling that all was not right about the Lockerbie inquiry came a few days after the disaster. On New Year's Eve a police sergeant from his constituency told him in confidence that he was not happy. Americans were poring over the wreckage in a way that "would not be acceptable" in the British investigation.

Mr Dalyell says: "At the time, as the Americans had sustained the greater part of the casualties, the attitude understandably was that they should have what they wanted." He has raised 15 adjournment debates on the Lockerbie mystery, apparently a record for any one MP. Ten years on, Mr Dalyell is sceptical about claims that the Libyans were responsible. He believes it was orchestrated by the Iranians in retaliation for the shooting down of their Airbus by the USS Vincennes.

JOURNALIST David Ben-Ariyeh arrived in Lockerbie less than two hours after the Boeing 747 had come down on the town. The disaster was to change his life. An Edinburgh-based freelance, he worked for the initial few hours for a national tabloid handing over film to the paper's staff reporters as they arrived.

Even now, his voice is incredulous at the destruction he saw. "One can only imagine the forces that can reduce a 747 to wreckage the size of postage stamps," he said.

He attended the first press conference given by John Boyd, the Chief Constable of the Dumfries and Galloway Police, to 300 journalists. Ben-Ariyeh realised this might be the biggest story he would ever cover. He remained in Lockerbie for several weeks, wedging his 6ft 6in frame into the rear of his car to sleep.

He was the first to get the

THE JOURNALIST

story that the PanAm jet had crashed as result of a bomb rather than the initial theory of a catastrophic decompression.

He began reporting for an American national radio station. "I found myself broadcasting over the phone up to four times an hour." Those vivid reports to America would eventually win him an award.

Over the weeks that followed Ben-Ariyeh became increasingly involved with those who had been affected by the disaster and formed a lasting friendship with the families' spokesman, Jim Swire.

"When I started at Lockerbie I was egocentric, materialistic and selfish. The way that community behaved in the face of adversity has taught me a lot. I am no longer interested in possessions," he said. "I learnt that death does not discriminate. Rich and poor died at Lockerbie. Saints and sinners, too."

Ben-Ariyeh became obsessed with finding out who had planned to bomb. He was already suspicious of some of the activity he had seen immediately after the bombing. "I would sit on the wall sucking my pipe and you can learn a lot by just watching." He was told of strange American officials taking away packages and money.

He had considerable involvement in the making of Allen Frankovich's controversial and erudite film *The Maltese Double Cross* shown on Channel Four in 1995.

Ben-Ariyeh who now has "more than 50 candles on the cake" says that the personal consequences of the decade-long involvement in the Lockerbie case have been quite severe. His professional career as a journalist has ended for the time being. He suffers from a number of illnesses and lives on invalidity benefit in a small Edinburgh flat.

THE PRIEST



Pat Keegan: 'The sheer grief made my brain shut down'

PAT KEEGAN had just gone upstairs to hide his mother's Christmas present "when a loud wind came and then a roar. I thought it was an RAF fighter hitting my roof. I thought I was dead." He went downstairs and found his mother had been shielded by a fridge-freezer and survived.

Pat Keegan is a Roman Catholic priest, ordained in 1970. His presbytery was in Sherwood Crescent, Lockerbie. When he looked out, he saw the rest of the houses had gone, incinerated by the 747's fuel tanks. Many of his friends and neighbours had perished.

He hurried his mother to safety and for the next 36 hours looked after his parishioners. He was there when the first of the relatives of the American victims arrived in the town.

Father Keegan was then 42. He had been an alcoholic and had received treatment before the disaster. Was he tempted to return to the bottle? "No... But I knew deep sadness and I think that understanding enabled me to help others suffering from grief. The person who stands out to me was Alec Mackderry, of the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Community. After the disaster we ran a community support group. When things got too tough we would have a good swear to-

gether. If things got messy he and I would go into another room and shout and bawl. That built a bond of friendship."

Several years after the disaster Father Keegan realised it had taken a toll. "I spent a good few years in the darkness. The sheer amount of grief had made my brain shut down."

Five years after the crash he left Lockerbie. "The town had largely recovered and I felt I needed to move on. I did a year in a psychiatric hospital but then decided I wanted the variety of parish life again." He is now parish priest at St Margaret's, in Ayr.

The comfort he gave to the families of American victims has led to close ties in the United States and he is regularly asked to visit.

"Lockerbie was an enormous task to face. A task I felt inadequate for. I have learnt that God and people can help you through. The power of God certainly helped me to come through. The strength of the people of Lockerbie has had a profound effect on my life."

"I have a happy life now," he says. "I have a deep sense of gratitude that I survived. It has changed my life. Everything is much more vivid, in much sharper focus. I appreciate each individual I meet and the value of life."

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Europe: Deadlock over finances at Vienna summit dismays Eastern European states as fishing faces new restrictions



David Evans (centre) with his crew in Padstow: 'I think the cuts will squeeze us out of business' Paul Armiger

EU hopefuls fear membership delay

LEADERS OF former communist states in Eastern Europe applying to join the EU are expressing dismay that the deadlock over Europe's future finances may delay their membership.

After last week's European Union summit in Vienna proved unable to agree anything more than a timetable for resolving the financing impasse, applicant countries voiced disappointment over the lack of progress.

Their fears were heightened by comments from Germany's Social Democrat Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, that agreement on a EU reform package cutting Germany's financial contributions was a precondition of Europe's enlargement.

However, a consensus seemed far away after a north-

By STEPHEN CASTLE
in Vienna

south split emerged at the meeting, with Spain preventing any mention in the summit conclusions of a plan favoured by Germany, France and Britain, to freeze the EU's budget.

Jerzy Buzek, the Prime Minister of Poland, one of the hopeful applicants, warned that "potential failures or delays in this domain could have a negative influence on the process of enlargement".

Despite repeated commitments from European leaders to the principle of expanding the EU eastwards, heads of the 15 member states failed to agree on a timetable. Formal accession negotiations have already started with the Czech Repub-

lic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Cyprus. Altogether, 11 countries in all hope to join in the next decade.

With no sign of consensus on EU future funding, leaders are considering holding an extra summit in February to provide a final opportunity to explore compromise positions ahead of a crunch meeting in March.

In Vienna the leaders agreed to a March deadline to reach a decision on the reform package, called Agenda 2000.

Germany, which is by far the EU's biggest paymaster, is demanding a cut in its annual £2bn net contributions. In the run-up to the summit the Germans took an increasingly strident tone, as Mr Schröder insisted Europe's problems could not be solved by reaching for a German cheque book.

Germany, France and Britain have supported moves to freeze the budget at current levels plus inflation for 2000-2006. The move is opposed by Spain, Portugal and Greece which are the main beneficiaries of EU funds targeted at Europe's poorer regions.

Britain's annual £2bn budget rebate is still seen by Germany as part of the March negotiations. Although Tony Blair insisted the UK rebate was "not negotiable", he reaffirmed his commitment to staying engaged in Europe. He indicated new flexibility on other areas arguing that Britain "will pay our share" of the costs of enlargement. That could result in a formula under which the rebate does not apply to the additional costs of admitting the candidate countries.

Fishermen face huge quotas cut

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

SWINGING CUTS in the amount of fish caught around the coasts of Britain next year will be proposed by the European Commission on Thursday.

The reductions - of up to 40 per cent of the catch in some cases - have left British fishermen "extremely alarmed, angry and despairing", according to their leader Barrie Deas. "They may well drive people out of business," he said.

But international fisheries scientists contend the cuts are necessary to protect stocks of white fish such as cod, hake and haddock, some of which, they say, are now below safe biological limits and may collapse.

Mr Deas and the Scottish fishermen's leader, Hamish Morrison, will tomorrow see the Fisheries minister, Elliot Morley, to press him to fight for greater UK catch allowances at Thursday's meeting of EU Fisheries ministers in Brussels.

They are unlikely to come away satisfied. Mr Morley, one of the most conservation-minded ministers in the Government, agrees that some fish stocks are now below safe limits. "I believe there may be a little room for manoeuvre in relation to some of the catches, but I accept the argument that stocks are under severe pressure," he said.

The new reductions, for total allowable catches in the sea areas around Britain which are then divided into national quotas, are some of the sharpest proposed. The total catch of cod in the Channel area, for example, is to be slashed from 20,000 tonnes to 15,600 tonnes, while the catch of hake in the Western Approaches is to be cut from 33,000 to 28,000 tonnes.

These cuts are being brought in now because European countries have decided to apply the "precautionary principle" - acting before it is strictly necessary - to managing fish stocks.

The proposed levels are based on advice from the Danish-based International Council for the Exploitation of the Sea, which regulates the world's fish stocks.

Mr Morley said he accepted a programme based on the precautionary principle. "But it is also my job to get the best deal I can for British fishermen," he said. "Those objectives are not necessarily contradictory."

Fishermen's leaders say the cuts should be phased in. "It is an awful lot to swallow at one go," Mr Morrison said.

David Evans, who runs two beam trawlers out of the Cornish port of Padstow, is gloomy about the proposed cuts.

"We just can't afford it. We haven't got enough to catch now and we're all struggling as it is," said Mr Evans, 43, who has been fishing for more than 25 years.

"I think the cuts will squeeze us out of business. In five to ten years we won't have a fishing fleet."

Not all networks are created equal

TEST YOUR EURO KNOWLEDGE

Bank staff should brace themselves for a mystifying start to the New Year in case customers demand accounts be converted into equarders, eus or even euros rather than the newly introduced euro. With just over two weeks to E-day, a survey reveals 51 per cent of those questioned still do not know the correct name of the new European single currency. Only five per cent surveyed in the BBC Money Programme poll knew euro notes and coins would be introduced in 2002, and 90 per cent had no idea the euro would be worth around 70p. European Movement director Steven Woodard said the findings illustrated how out of touch people were with events on the other side of the Channel. Try our quiz to find out if your euro knowledge is up to speed...

1. When does the euro start?
a) January 1, 1999; b) January 1, 2000; c) January 1, 2010
2. What will one euro be worth?
a) Roughly 70p; b) £1; c) Roughly 20p
3. When will euro notes and coins come into circulation?
a) 2002; b) 1999; c) 2000
4. Which of the following countries is not joining the first wave?
a) UK; b) Finland; c) Spain
5. How many European Union countries are joining in the first wave?
a) Eleven - all but the UK, Denmark, Sweden and Greece; b) Nine; c) All 15
6. Who will set interest rates in countries taking part?
a) The European Central Bank; b) The Bundesbank; c) Individual central banks coordinating with each other
7. Should Britain join, will the Queen's head be permitted...
a) On euro coins but not notes; b) On euro notes and coins; c) On neither?
8. Who is president of the European Central Bank?
a) Wim Duisenberg; b) Jean-Paul Gaultier; c) Jean Claude van Damme
9. When the name for the euro was being chosen the then chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, unsuccessfully proposed which alternative?
a) The florin; b) The guinea; c) The Churchill
10. Which of the following statements is untrue?
a) Prototype euro coins proved magnetic, and clumped together; b) A prototype hologram imprint for the euro notes went missing on a flight from Frankfurt airport; c) The first batch of euro coins minted had to be melted down because of complaints that they would confuse blind people

The correct answer is a) in every case.
STEPHEN CASTLE

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News and sports information	✓	✓		✓
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White House plots strategy to avert Senate trial

AS THE prospect of enforced removal from office looms over President Bill Clinton following the passage of four articles of impeachment by the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee at the weekend, the White House was gearing up yesterday for three days of intense lobbying before the House of Representatives reconvenes on Thursday.

The House, which is in recess, has been summoned back to Washington for only the second vote of its kind in history:

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

on whether articles of impeachment should be forwarded to the Senate and the President should stand trial. A simple majority for any of the four articles would ensure a trial in the Senate, which could open as soon as 11 January.

But, as both sides agree, there is everything to play for. Although the Republicans have a 21-seat majority in the House, the outcome of this week's vote

is too close to predict and if members have no consensus on whether to choose a straight choice: a Senate trial on impeachment or nothing.

By the end of the week Mr Clinton's reputation as the House president will be confirmed or he will be one of the most shamed presidents in history. If the vote goes in favour of a Senate trial there is general agreement it would not result in his removal. Impeachment requires a two-thirds majority -

67 or the 100 Senators - and even if the vote went strictly along party lines, the Republican majority of nine would be insufficient. In the past week, however, the White House has seemed increasingly worried about the effect of a Senate trial and less philosophical about toughing it out to the end.

Between now and Thursday, Clinton supporters will be doing their utmost to ensure the former. One possibility is to try to revive a censure motion on the floor of the House. De-

mocrats hope the combination of public support for Mr Clinton and worries about the destabilising effect of a Senate trial on the running of the country might convince Republicans to settle for something less than impeachment. Mr Clinton has said he would accept a rebuke.

But the odds are not good. Constitutionally, it is uncertain whether a motion dismissed in committee can be revived in the full house, and the idea now seems to be in decline. Crying

wolf about the unsettling effects of a Senate trial cuts both ways, as Democrats found last week, when the stock market started to fall at the prospect.

The White House appeared yesterday to be retrenching. With many senior staff in the Middle East with Mr Clinton and not due back until late tomorrow, their strategy was on hold. Mr Clinton insists the matter is out of his hands, which did not stop his last-minute broadcast to the nation on Friday and might not discourage him from another in-

tervention on the eve of the vote. Some suggested Hillary Clinton might make a broadcast on his behalf, but there seemed little substance to that view.

What remained to the White House was a continuation of tactics employed at other points in the Monica Lewinsky affair: the brute political force of arm-twisting and inducements. Two particularly vocal Republican members of the Judiciary Committee said last week they had been smeared and blamed the White House.

Mr Clinton and aides were said to be calling key Democratic Congress members to minimise defections. Yesterday he said he was open to talking to any Congress member who would not call anyone who did not first express an interest.

At least one of his defenders on the Judiciary Committee, the populist Maxine Waters, of Los Angeles, proposed pro-Clinton demonstrations by blacks to capitalise on his popular support.

Clinton flies in to rescue Mid-East deal

BILL CLINTON began his attempt to revive the Wye Plantation peace accords yesterday at the start of his three-day visit to Israel and Gaza, which White House aides tried to get the US President to cancel up to the last minute.

At the end of his first talks with Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, President Clinton called on the Palestinian Authority to quell demonstrations and said he would ask Congress to allocate \$1.2bn (£750m) to implement the peace agreement.

Mr Netanyahu said Israel will not continue its partial withdrawal from the West Bank unless the Palestinians, led by Yasser Arafat, renounce their plans unilaterally to declare a Palestinian state.

"No one can seriously expect Israel to hand over an inch of territory unless and until such an unambiguous correction is made," he said.

President Clinton's big test comes tomorrow in Gaza, where he will address the 600-strong Palestine National Council (PNC), the body which represents about 6 million Palestinians scattered across the world.

Mr Netanyahu and Mr

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

Arafat have exchanged bitter words about the nullification by this body of anti-Israel clauses in the Palestinian charter.

Mr Netanyahu has noisily insisted that the PNC must revoke the clauses to which he objects by a vote, while Mr Arafat says it will be done by acclamation. However, Israel has let it be known that it does not expect the votes to be actually counted and will not insist on a quorum.

If the charter is revoked in a form acceptable to the United States and to Israel, President Clinton and Mr Netanyahu will both be able to claim a victory. Both leaders are in need of one: President Clinton wants a successful visit to counterbalance the impeachment proceedings in Congress, while Mr Netanyahu wants to show to his own hard right, which could vote him out of power, that he has gained serious concessions from the Palestinians.

The talks in Jerusalem opened in an atmosphere of violence. There were riots outside Rachel's Tomb, at the entrance to Bethlehem, in which three Palestinians were in-

jured. In the north of the West Bank, a 17-year-old Jewish girl in the settlement of Shavei Shomron was injured in a knife attack by a 15-year-old Palestinian girl.

Much of central Jerusalem has been closed to traffic around the Hilton Hotel, where President Clinton is staying. Israel has mobilised 15,000 troops and police, while Mr Clinton has brought an entourage of 1,200.

In Jewish settlements on the West Bank there is little sign that the hard right will countenance any Israeli withdrawal. At Alon Shvut, a rapidly expanding settlement of 400 families that is part of a wedge of Jewish settlements at Gush Etzion, south of Jerusalem, Nina Brandes, 65, who had lived there 30 years, said: "Clinton is not wanted here. I don't call this a peace process, but a process of annihilation."

Mrs Brandes said she was not concerned with the outcome of the peace negotiations: "In the long run there will be war whatever happens," she said. "Little girls in Palestinian schools sing songs about wiping out the Jews. They cheered when the Iraqis fired missiles at Tel Aviv during the Gulf War."

She said the problem was that, while many on President Clinton's staff were Jewish, they were "Jewish traitors". Other settlers are less extreme. But the hard religious right has shown since the Oslo accords were first reached that it will stop at nothing to hold on to the West Bank.

In 1995, Yigal Amir, a religious student, shot dead Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, as a traitor to Israel for giving up land that God gave to the Jews.

Talia Zell, 18, another resident of the Alon Shvut settlement, said: "I don't want to give up land. But not giving it up is

dangerous, too. I want peace."

At the other end of the settlement, cranes were at work building large new houses as part of the government's construction drive around Jerusalem. A few miles from Alon Shvut, outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Palestinian enclave of Bethle-

hem, which Bill and Hillary Clinton are to visit tomorrow, labourers were working frantically to prepare the central Manger Square for the presidential visit. American flags snapped in the breeze beside the Palestinian flag outside every shop. Mohammed Mahmoud, a water engineer, nego-

tiating his way across heaps of rubble, said he hoped Mr Clinton's visit "will bring a Palestinian state nearer".

But he said this would not do him personally much good. His main pleasure in the US President's visit was that "the Israelis are against it - Netanyahu wants to give us nothing".



Bill Clinton at a Hanukkah menorah candle-lighting ceremony at the residence of Israeli President Ezer Weizman in Jerusalem yesterday AP

Puerto Ricans go to polls on joining US

THE PEOPLE of Puerto Rico were voting in a referendum yesterday on whether the Caribbean island, which fell into American hands 100 years ago as spoils of the Spanish-American War, should seek to become fully integrated into the United States.

As polling came to a close last night the result was too close to call. Ballot papers offered voters five options, including one for independence as a sovereign nation. Only two of the options were expected to win significant support: one to petition the US for full statehood and another to retain the island's current status as a commonwealth of the US.

The issue is emotive for the island, which has a population of 3.8 million. Supporters of statehood argue that, as a commonwealth, Puerto Ricans are second-class citizens who live under American cultural domination without the chance to vote in US elections or affect American politics.

Leading the statehood camp is the Governor, Pedro Rossello. "Keep the political inferiority, keep the economic limitations, keep the social dependency, that's what commonwealth has meant to Puerto Rico as a transitory and territorial status," he said. But opponents of the campaign believe that, as a commonwealth, the island has the best of all worlds - close association with the US and the benefits of federal funding while at the same time retaining a patina of national identity. Puerto

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York



Pedro Rossello: Leading the drive for statehood

Rico, for instance, has its own Olympic team.

The island was under Spanish rule for 400 years before it was ceded to the US in 1898. The present commonwealth status was conferred on Puerto Rico in 1952. Yesterday's was the third referendum on statehood in 30 years. The last time, in 1993, statehood lost by two percentage points.

Victory for the statehood campaign would mark only the start of a difficult constitutional battle. To become the 51st state of America, Puerto Rico would have to win the support of the US Congress, a task that would probably not prove easy. Members of Congress may worry, for example, about the impact on the Union of adding to it a state that is entirely Spanish-speaking.

IN BRIEF

110 found in Algiers mass grave

THE ALGERIAN authorities have discovered the remains of about 110 people, believed to be victims of Islamic rebels, after excavations in a mass grave near the capital Algiers, the local daily *Liberte* said. The excavation in a well at an orange grove 12 miles southwest of Algiers had been a base of the Armed Islamic Group.

Habibie calls for religious calm

PRESIDENT HABIBIE of Indonesia has called on fellow Muslims to help the Christian minority protect its churches against attack. Twenty-two churches were burned in one day last month after tensions erupted between both sides. President Habibie said fighting among religions was against the tenets of Islam.

China detains dissidents

TWO DISSIDENTS were detained and one student has disappeared in China's province of Zhejiang, the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said. One man who printed 500 copies of a work on a pro-democracy activist and the vice-chairman of the China Democratic Party's Hubei branch were taken from their homes.

Rocket kills 15 in Kabul

A ROCKET barrage in the Afghan capital Kabul killed at least 15 people and wounded scores more. No one took responsibility, but the rockets came from north of the city where anti-Taliban fighters loyal to ousted military chief Ahmed Shah Massoud are deployed.

Pensioner robs gypsy beggar girl

AN ITALIAN pensioner of 66 was caught after robbing a 10-year-old gypsy girl who had been begging in a busy Rome shopping street. The girl shouted "thief, thief" after the man made off with her bag of small change. Police caught the man.

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ARIEL DORFMAN
Do General Pinochet's followers want him to return or die abroad?
IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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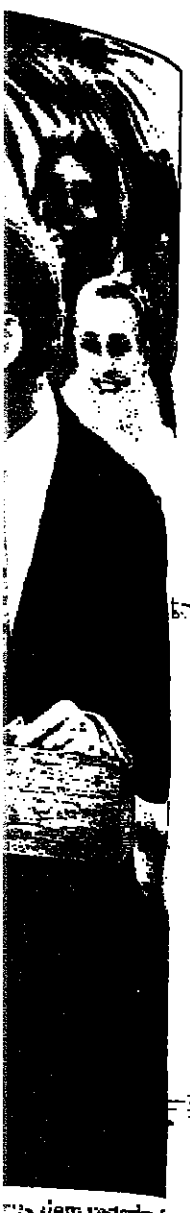
Two men, against Richmond and North Newcastle, the knowledge Leices rugby public has apparently cleaned out the books by putting their money on Back to score the first try at generous odds. Against Richmond, according to reports, it was 10-1, this week he was 12-1 to achieve the feat. "I was told by a colleague that minute I walked out on to the

Rives ha
THE FRENCH rugby legend Jean-Pierre Rives was the toast of Northern Ireland last night after he drew Ulster home game against Stade Français in the semi-finals of the European Cup.
The only non-French team left in the tournament, after Llanelli fell by the wayside in the weekend quarter-finals, Ulster play the French champion on the weekend of 9-10 January.
Having beaten Toulouse twice, Ebbw Vale and drawn with Edinburgh, Rives will be pleased to have been drawn at home.

INDEPENDENT
14 December 1998

erial

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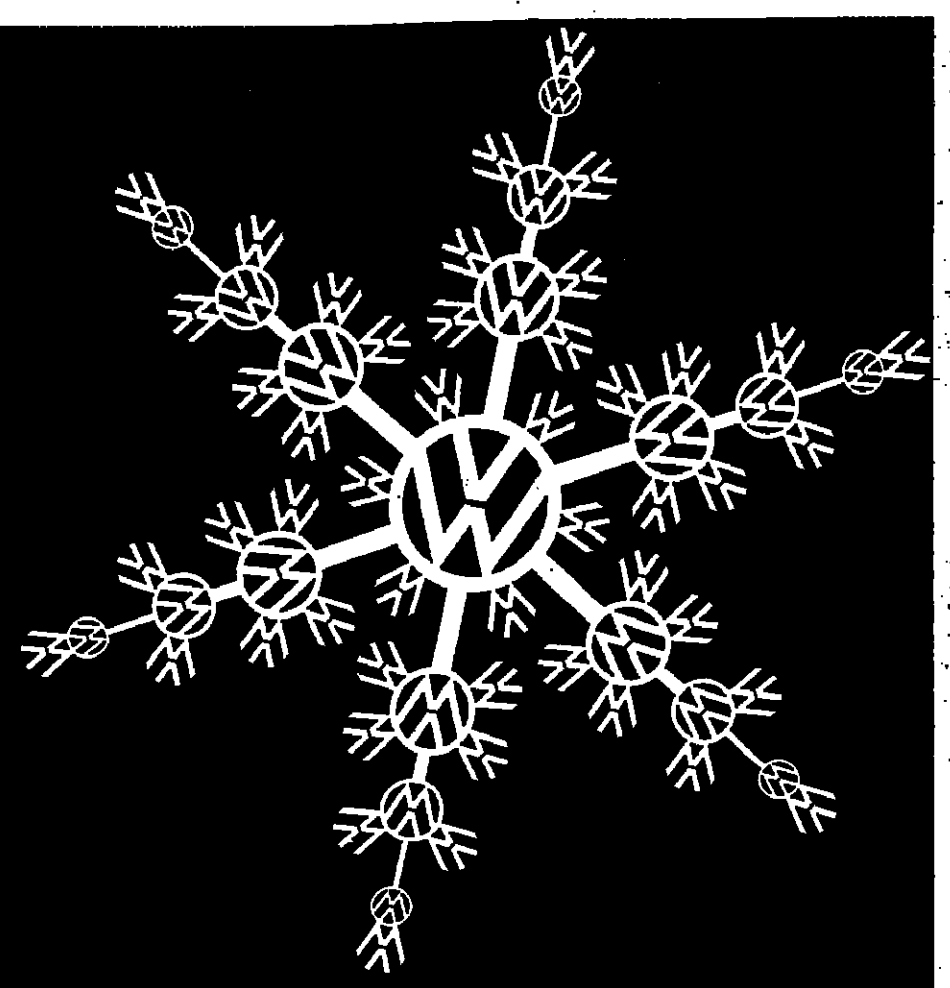
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Martyr to a unique school of heroic art

STREET LIFE
BEIRUT

"IT'S A copy," Hassan shouted as we drove on the streets outside Tyre. A bleak portrait of Lebanon's parliament speaker, Nabih Berri, hung over the road, unreal eyes staring listlessly towards the sea, cheeks pale, his teeth unnaturally enlarged. "Now there - that's an original Shurara," said Abbas Moussawi, a retired guerrilla fighter, owner of a hi-fi shop, a juice hall and a supermarket, flag-maker, sign-painter and, of course, portrait artist with his very own "school" of workers to paint bodies and faces.

"I participate with colour coordination and sometimes I help with the eyes," he says. "Any picture you give us - a snapshot even - and we'll be able to paint an exact copy, life-like. We will reproduce the most minute details of the photograph. Ah, there goes my top man now. He's a Kurd."

A lanky man in jeans beams up from the muddy street, waves and heads for the workshop. He is clearly "school of Shurara" although today, alas, he is consigned to mixing the colours for posters advertising a new fax company. Mr Shurara looks down at him proprietorially. "He's a good man. All my painters are good. I rarely have to get involved."

faces have all passed through Mr Shurara's workshop in the Beirut suburb of Ouzai.

Bearded, smiling brightly in his concrete shack by the sea, producing guava juice for his visitors, Mr Shurara is, oddly enough, a bit of a Renaissance man: retired guerrilla fighter, owner of a hi-fi shop, a juice hall and a supermarket, flag-maker, sign-painter and, of course, portrait artist with his very own "school" of workers to paint bodies and faces.

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Yusef Shurara, the Rembrandt of Lebanese street portraiture, and one of his posters, featuring an Hizbollah fighter from Qana 'martyred' by the Israelis Robert Fisk



personnel carriers. I thought I was going to die - and I found that I welcomed the idea of death."

The battle was the first victory for what became known as the "Islamic Resistance" - the Israeli armoured vehicle was indeed captured and driven into the capital by the Hizbollah - and Mr Shurara's men have been painting the movement's fallen ever since.

"Sometimes the family comes to us with a photograph, we paint the martyr's picture and it goes up over the roads of his native village," he says. "Often, we do it on our own initiative, without money, to show what we can do."

Hizbollah's dead often wear spectacles and their untidy hair is copied all too painfully on to the metal and canvas

frames, their dowdy camouflage fatigues set off by the bright images of heaven which supposedly await. Roses are a favourite - big pink blooms that float above the heads of the dead like plump angels in European religious paintings.

But some portraits contain a more imaginative image of the after-life - trees and suns and tulip fields and rivers of honey (those metaphorical virgins promised in the Koran are mercifully absent). So of course I ask Mr Shurara how he decides what heaven looks like, how his "school" knows the furniture of life-after-death. "It's a question of impressions and ideas," he says. "If we put a river or a tree there, it doesn't mean this is what paradise actually looks like. But the Koran speaks of

paradise - and that is something grander than we humans can possibly imagine."

Mr Shurara's portraits are hung around the village of Qana where Israeli shellfire massacred 106 Lebanese refugees sheltering at a United Nations base in 1996; a massive picture of Ayatollah Khomeini is backed by a bespectacled Hizbollah "martyr" at the entrance to the village, while on the main street one of Mr Shurara's banners speaks of blood and death. He is 41 and his father fought at Haifa and Acre in 1948 when Israel won its war of independence and the Palestinian catastrophe began. "I was brought up in this atmosphere," Mr Shurara says. "And ever since I was little, I have craved martyrdom."

I find this hard to take. Mr Shurara prays regularly at the mosque beside his home but he is a businessman now - a martyr's picture can set you back anything between £200 and £700 - and is just completing a food emporium on the other side of the mosque. But, he insists: "Even now, when I talk to my children, I tell each one of them that one day they must be prepared to become a martyr in the name of Allah. Up to now, I still have expectations and a desire to be a martyr. If I believe in God, I have to believe in heaven."

And I wonder, at once, who will paint Mr Shurara's portrait if he realises his ultimate ambition. His "school", no doubt, will be standing by.

ROBERT FISK

Religious death squads targeting Iranian intellectuals

THE BODY of an intellectual was found in Iran yesterday, heightening fears that Islamic extremists are picking off the country's real or suspected liberals in a ghastly campaign aimed at intimidating supporters of a more secular state.

BY MARCUS TANNER

deh's body was discovered near a railway bridge in Tehran. He had apparently been strangled. The case is far from isolated. On Wednesday, the day that Mr Puyandeh was last seen alive, the body of another intellectual, Mohammad Mokhtari, a poet known for his antipathy to religious hardliners, was also discovered. Again, it appears he was strangled.

A third dissident, Javad Sharif was found dead last week in what are believed to be suspicious circumstances.

while a fourth, Pirouz Davani, is missing and feared dead. No one has been charged for any of the deaths. And last month the opposition leader, Darius Foruhar, and his wife, Parvaneh, were found stabbed to death in their Tehran home. The President of Iran, Mo-

hammad Khatami, has ordered the police and intelligence services to step up investigations into the spate of killings. However, he has little authority over law and order under Iran's Islamic system and some secularists suspect the murders are intended to intimidate him

as well as the writers and poets. Mr Khatami won the presidential elections in May 1997 as an avowed candidate of the moderates and modernisers, seeking better ties with the West and even with the great enemy of Iran's Islamic revolution, the United States. Since

then he has proved unable to protect all his supporters from the hardliners entrenched in the parliament. Iran's intelligence service, police and armed forces still report to the religious head, the "supreme leader", Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is widely re-

garded as a supporter of the President's critics. Several of the murdered intellectuals are connected with a movement to revive an independent writers' association and have demanded greater freedom of expression from the religious authorities.

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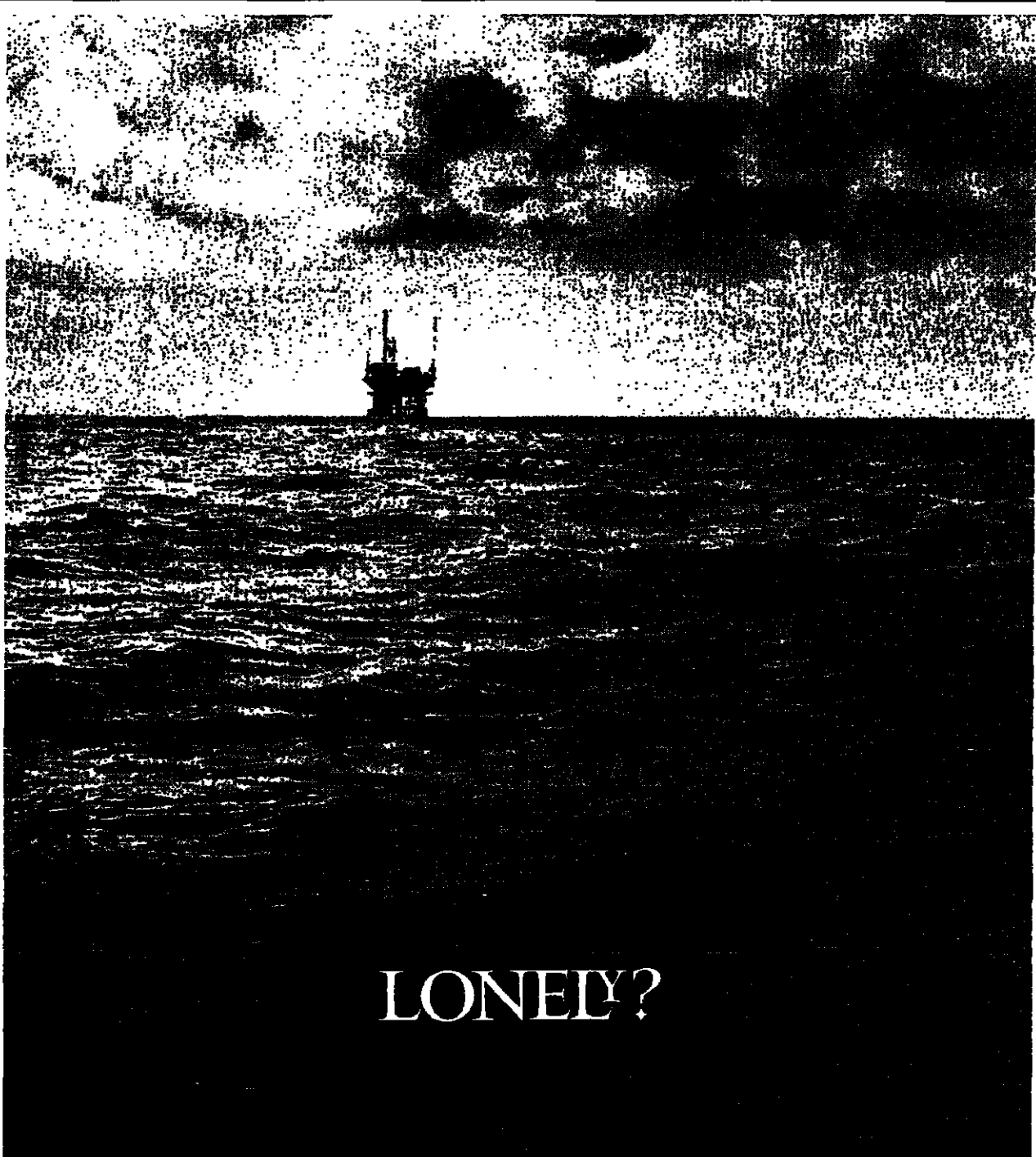
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Oil cutbacks move closer

THE PROSPECT of agreement over production cuts among Opec members drew slightly closer over the weekend after major oil producers Saudi Arabia and Venezuela agreed to meet non-Opec Mexico in Madrid this week to discuss curbs amid the deepening petroleum market crisis.

Last week, Gulf Arab oil states agreed to extend output cuts until the end of 1999 and urged others to do the same. One Opec delegate said: "The indications are that the new Venezuelan administration will work with other Opec states to raise prices higher and they will be less concerned with market share." Venezuela's position matters because Mexico and Saudi Arabia, its rivals for the vast United States market, are unlikely to make deeper supply cuts unless Caracas matches them.

Two earlier rounds of curbs masterminded by the three producers this year have failed to boost prices, which, at just under \$10 a barrel, are at their lowest since 1976.

Murdoch in Italian pay-TV deal



TELECOM ITALIA and media magnate Rupert Murdoch (pictured) are reported to have finally reached a deal on a digital pay-TV venture, handing Murdoch's News Corp Europe a 70 per cent controlling stake.

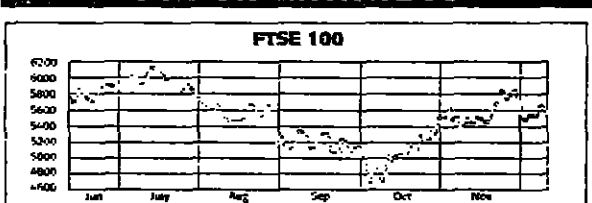
Telecom's managing director, Franco Bernabè, is expected to unveil the deal to the board tomorrow and immediately

afterwards to shareholders at a meeting in Turin. News Corp Europe, a unit of Murdoch's News Corp empire, would take 70 per cent of Telecom's loss-making television unit Stream, the vehicle for the new digital satellite venture. Telecom would have 20 per cent. Industry sources said Mr Murdoch is prepared to offer \$500m a year for the digital rights for all 38 Serie A and Serie B soccer clubs for five years from next season.

Asian crisis still hurting

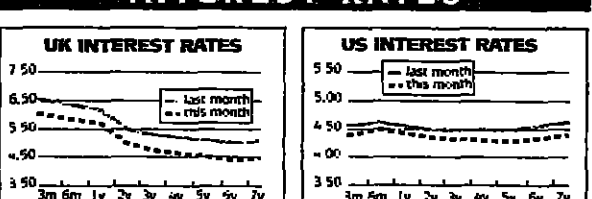
THE FALLOUT from the Asian crisis is not over yet, according to research by the Economist Intelligence Unit's Country Risk Service published today. Its latest "Risk Ratings Review" identifies 22 countries as "losers" - those whose ratings have declined by 4 points or more - in the past three months, making it the worst quarter since the review began at the start of 1997. The EIU concluded that emerging markets would continue to be influenced by the knock-on effects of the crises in Asia and Russia and vulnerability of Brazil to a sharp devaluation.

STOCK MARKETS



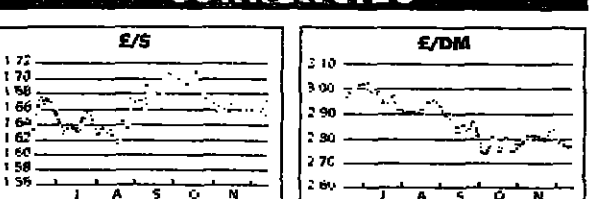
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4541.70	-40.20	-0.72	6183.7	4599.2	3.392
FTSE 250	4736.90	-13.80	-0.29	5970.9	4247.6	4.877
FTSE 350	2626.50	-17.20	-0.65	2969.1	2210.4	3.617
FTSE All Share	2536.27	-16.16	-0.63	2886.52	2143.53	3.667
FTSE SmallCap	2017.60	-5.80	-0.29	2793.8	1834.4	4.174
FTSE Fledgling	1123.60	1.50	0.13	1517.1	1045.2	0.004
FTSE AIM	800.10	-0.90	-0.11	1146.9	761.3	0.002
FTSE EBLIC 100	814.03					
Dow Jones	8821.78	-194.38	-2.16	9380.2	7400.3	1.696
Nikkei	14405.64	-234.33	-1.60	17352.95	12787.9	1.017
Hang Seng	9952.00	-11.14	-0.11	11926.16	6546.79	3.13
Dax	4536.20	-239.03	-5.01	6217.83	3833.71	1.959

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	9 month	12 month	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.41	-1.31	5.87	-1.94	4.46	-1.83	4.35	-1.88
US	5.22	-0.72	4.97	-1.09	4.62	-	5.02	-
Japan	0.48	-0.28	0.54	-0.18	1.30	-0.62	2.07	-0.46
Germany	3.36	-0.40	3.21	-0.88	3.78	-1.54	4.64	-1.24

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	9 month	12 month	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr chg
Dollar	1.6889	-2.23%	1.5651		1.6425	-0.80%	0.8078	
D-Mark	2.7867	-0.20%	2.9743		1.6425	-2.58%	1.7987	
Yen	158.78	-41.21	215.94		718.65	-42.08	130.58	
E index	100.40	+0.10	103.80		104.80	-0.60	108.40	

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 month	6 month	9 month	12 month	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr chg
Brent Oil (\$)	5.14	-0.46	15.67		115.40	3.00	112.04	Dec.
Gold (\$)	290.67	-1.60	283.95		164.50	3.10	159.55	Dec.
Silver (\$)	4.84	0.05	6.05		6.25	7.25		

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5857	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.22
Austria (schillings)	18.80	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0143
Belgium (francs)	55.26	New Zealand (\$)	3.0527
Canada (\$)	2.5064	Norway (krone)	12.35
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7914	Portugal (escudos)	273.12
Denmark (krone)	10.25	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0851
Finland (markka)	8.1434	Singapore (S)	2.6282
France (francs)	8.9853	Spain (pesetas)	227.53
Germany (marks)	2.6880	South Africa (rand)	9.5162
Greece (drachmas)	448.83	Sweden (krone)	13.17
Hong Kong (\$)	12.54	Switzerland (francs)	2.1748
Ireland (pounds)	1.0762	Thailand (bahts)	54.81
India (rupees)	63.91	Turkey (liras)	4906.71
Israel (shekels)	6.4630	USA (\$)	1.6306
Italy (lira)	2663		
Japan (yen)	191.59		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0828		
Malta (lira)	0.6075		

Source: Thomas Cook

Shell to spell out wide-ranging cuts

SHELL, the struggling oil group, is expected to unveil a wide-ranging rationalisation programme today that could result in heavy job losses.

The Anglo-Dutch group is scheduled to brief oil industry analysts in London and New York and markets are braced for huge asset write-downs, disposal plans and possibly another profits warning.

Shell declined to comment on the possible implications for jobs yesterday ahead of the

BY NIGEL COPE

presentations by Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman.

Shell has already embarked on a major European shake-up that will result in 3,000 job losses. This has included the closure of four headquarters offices including the landmark Shell Mex House on the Strand in London. It is not known if any news on jobs today will be in addition to the redundancies already announced.

Like other oil groups, Shell has been hit by a double whammy of 12-year lows in the price of oil and falling demand in crisis-hit Asia.

Analysts predict that Shell will write off up to £3bn from previous valuations of the company's assets.

Jim Wood-Smith, head of research at stockbroker Greig Middleton, said: "Shell has been somewhat behind its rivals in cutting costs. It has a famously bureaucratic man-

agement structure. This means there is plenty of room for efficiencies and job cuts are inevitable."

The group has already announced the likely closure of its 92,000 barrels a day Shell Haven refinery in the UK and has declared production cuts and sell-offs of a number of European sites.

One analyst said Shell would be looking to sell parts of its chemical and coal divisions, while there may also be further

European refinery cuts to come. Industry experts have said that 15 per cent of the production capacity in Europe's refineries needs to be cut to bring stability to the market.

Regional closures announced in the last few months have seen 6,000 Shell jobs earmarked for the axe. Meanwhile, the largely Aberdeen-based Shell Esso joint venture with Esso has been shedding 200 North Sea jobs annually for around seven years.

Shell wants to slim down its management team to speed up decision making. It also wants to re-organise its reporting structure, which is currently established on a regional and business division basis.

The group announced last week that it had appointed Paul Skinner and Phil Watts as chief executives at its key oil products, and exploration and production divisions respectively, replacing committees of executives.

Gap in labour output is a mirage, says IoD

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

BUSINESS leaders are challenging the Government's accusation that British industry lags too far behind its competitors in terms of productivity.

In a report published today, ahead of the launch of the Competitiveness White Paper on Wednesday, the Institute of Directors argues that the productivity gap is largely a mirage.

Graeme Leach, the chief economist at the IoD, says the charges of poor performance levelled at industry are intended to deflect attention away from the faltering economy. He argues that there is only a small productivity gap between the UK and other countries.

"The White Paper will address some very important issues. But the central point is that there is a need for a much clearer diagnosis before we can make prescriptions for the future," said Mr Leach.

The Pre-Budget Report last month pointed to a 40 per cent shortfall between British and US productivity levels, and a 20 per cent shortfall compared with France and Germany.

But the IoD report says these raw figures for output per capita need adjusting for the size of the workforce and the amount of part-time versus full-time employment. Comparisons on the basis of output per worker hour close much of the gap with the US as Americans work many more hours per year.

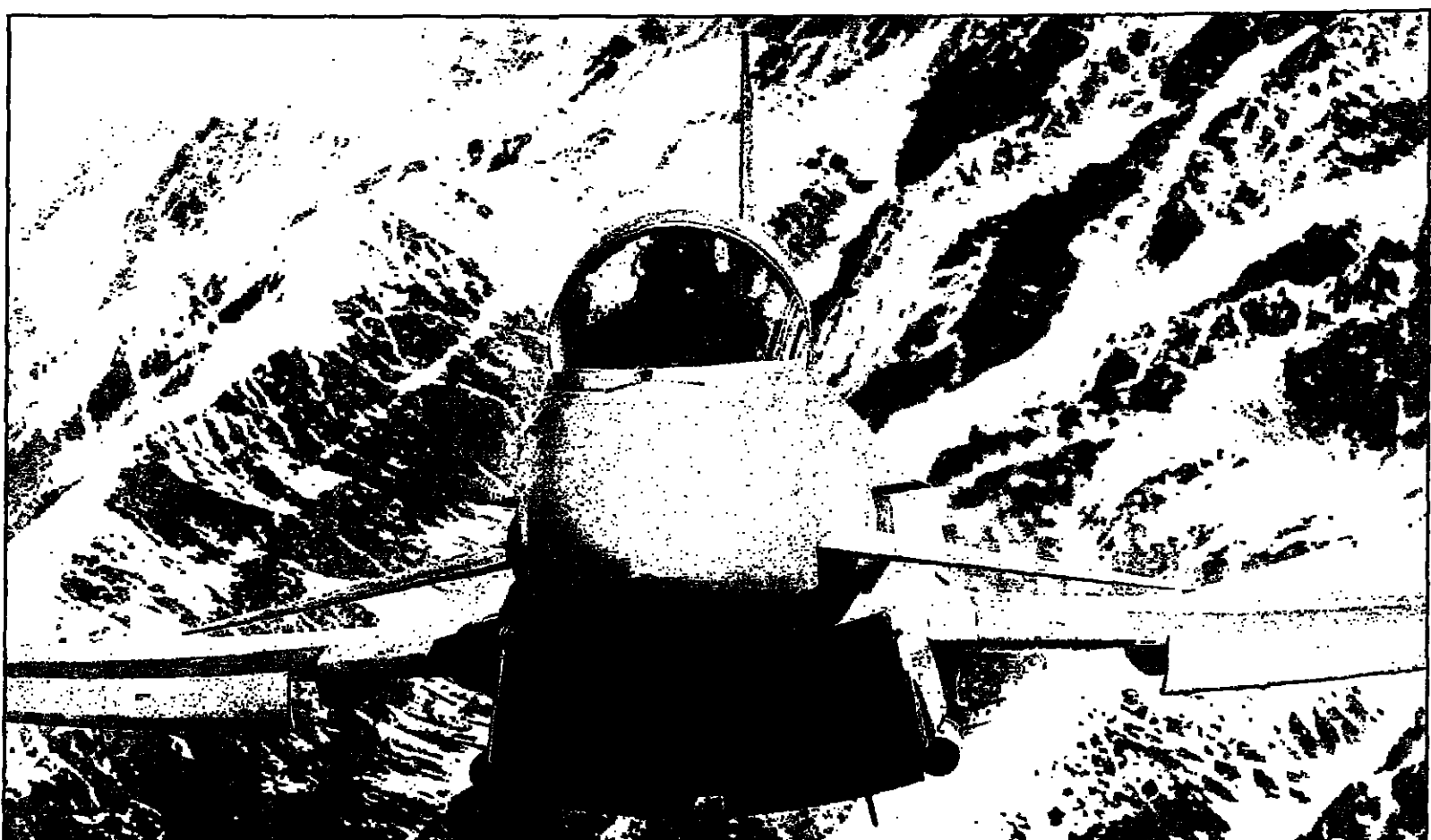
In addition, the Government's measures ignore the productivity of capital as opposed to labour, according to Mr Leach. Combining the two in a measure known as "total factor productivity" puts the UK 26 per cent behind the US and 14 per cent behind Germany, and shows the gap narrowing over time.

Much of this remaining difference could be explained by the difficulty of measuring productivity levels in an increasingly "weightless" economy, he says - a point acknowledged in the Pre-Budget Report.

The IoD concludes that British business is not performing significantly worse than its competitors. The success of the UK in attracting inward investment proves this.

The report goes on to say that the combination of lower labour productivity and more efficient use of capital has allowed the UK to have lower unemployment. "Less flexible labour markets work to push up total labour productivity but the underperformers are then manifested in unemployment, as opposed to lower wages in the UK."

It concludes that Government policies such as the minimum wage and the 48-hour week could undermine the benefits of a flexible labour market.



Eurofighter Typhoon: BAe and Dasa are already partners in its construction, while governments are encouraging defence-sector consolidation

GEC weighs options on aerospace tie-up

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

GEC said yesterday that it was considering its strategic options following a wave of weekend press speculation suggesting that it is trying to muscle in on British Aerospace's £14bn deal with Dasa, the German aerospace giant.

A statement issued yesterday said: "The group confirms that it has been in intense discussions for several months with a number of major participants in the global defence industry. GEC expects to make a decision on its future strategic course soon."

GEC added that its decision would be based on industrial logic, not political considerations. This is a reference to the British government, along with

those of France and Germany, encouraging a re-structuring of the European defence sector to enable it to compete more effectively with the major US players.

BAe and Dasa have been in talks for several months over a full merger and an announcement had been expected this week. However, it appears that in a last ditch attempt to play a part in the discussions, Lord

Simpson, GEC's managing director, has talked to Sir Richard Evans, BAe's chairman, about a link-up that would include the two British groups. Talks are understood to have focused on

the possibility of combining GEC's Marconi's electronics defence division with a merged BAe-Dasa.

The talks are taking place a backdrop of a rapidly consolidating global defence industry. US giants such as Lockheed and Northrop Grumman are looking at opportunities in Europe while the European defence sector is under pressure from European heads of state to strengthen the industry's competitive position with mergers and alliances.

GEC is looking at expansion opportunities in the US and is already a major player there. It has \$2.5bn of defence sales in America, equivalent to 40 per cent of group defence sales. It also has 20,000 US workers.

GEC has a range of strategic options open to it. It could link up with a US rival such as Lockheed or Northrop; seek a link with Thompson-CSF of France; or follow the path of domestic integration with BAe.

Defence experts have suggested that BAe and Dasa could join forces to create the core of a consolidated European Aerospace and Defence Company (EADC) and then bring GEC's Marconi Electronics into the partnership at a later stage.

"We are talking about the first few faltering steps that can be made to an EADC. Which of the steps come first does not really matter," one observer said. BAe has said that a bi-lateral merger should be just the

start of the creation of a larger entity. Its favoured outcome is for an EADC to embrace BAe, Aerospatiale of France, and Dasa, along with Dassault (Europe's second biggest military aircraft firm behind BAe), Spain's Casa and Sweden's Saab. While GEC may be keen on gaining a foothold in a BAe-Dasa alliance, some say the British government would prefer there to be two separate defence groups with European links rather than one combined entity.

Shares in GEC surged at the time of its interim results at the beginning of December when it said that it could be just weeks away from a major defence deal.

Sears dismisses takeover bid rumours



Philip Green: said to have made a 330p a share offer

SEARS, the struggling retail group, yesterday dismissed suggestions that it had received an offer of 330p per share for the company from Philip Green, the retail entrepreneur. The price would have valued Sears at around £500m.

Reports over the weekend suggested that Mr Green had last week sent a fax to Sir Bob Reid, Sears' chairman, seeking the board's recommendation for a 330p offer.

A Sears spokesman said: "If Mr Green and his team did send a fax we certainly didn't receive it. Perhaps they would like

to check they have got the right number."

There has been persistent speculation that Mr Green is poised to launch a bid for Sears at around 300p per share. But although the share price has been rising, Mr Green is yet to make a move. There have been no meetings between Mr Green and Sears and Mr Green has not sought an audience with Sears' institutional investors.

Retail experts said it was strange that no one made a move when Sears shares hit a

low of 150p several months ago.

The shares now stand at 267.5p. Some doubt Mr Green will launch a bid and question whether he has sufficient backing. The former Amber Day chairman, whose interests include the Mark One fashion chain and the Own One department stores, is thought to have support from private investors. But retail experts said venture capital groups would only back a deal following a thorough due diligence process.

Analysts are further perplexed about the timing of Mr Green's interest. Britain's re-

tailers are facing the toughest Christmas in years and Sears' already struggling high street operations are unlikely to avoid the downturn. It is due to issue a statement on Christmas trading in January and analysts feel any potential bidder would be more likely to wait until those details on performance can be assessed.

Mr Green, who has already conducted several deals with Sears, including the purchase of Olympus Sports and Shoe Express, is mainly interested in its high street operations, which include Wallis and Miss Selfridge.

Ailing Vanguard under pressure to shut down

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

Brimblecombe to turn the company into a "cash cow" for its shareholders.

Mr McGroarty, who had a meeting with other small investors on Saturday, claims that a number of Vanguard's shareholders are angry at the sharp fall in the company's share price caused by a series of failures in Vanguard's drugs. The board should consider the com-

plete failure of the company to deliver any performance," he said.

He said he would urge Dr Brimblecombe to close down Vanguard after finding a European marketing partner for its migraine drug Frovatriptan - the most advanced product in the Vanguard pipeline.

Mr McGroarty said that in the next few days he would try to gain support for its campaign from Vanguard's institutional

shareholders, which include Rothschild's Biotechnology Investment Trust, Guardian Royal Exchange and Equitable Life. The company declined to comment yesterday.

Last week Vanguard suffered the latest in a series of setbacks when it scrapped a treatment for kidney failure because it had not proved effective in clinical trials. The company's shares have lost over 70 per cent of their value since the drug

giant SmithKline Beecham dropped Frovatriptan in May.

Vanguard later signed a \$50m contract with the Irish pharmaceutical group Elan to market the product in the US. However, the deal failed to resurrect the share price as analysts warned that Elan was too small to drive through the marketing of the drug.

Last month, Vanguard was forced to scrap a series of warrants which could have raised

more than \$25m in cash, due to the collapse in the share price.

This is the second time Mr McGroarty and the Vanguard board have crossed swords. Last month, the shareholder wrote to the chief executive, Robert Mansfield, urging him to return £90m to shareholders.

Dr Mansfield dismissed the suggestion, saying that Mr McGroarty's strategy was not shared by the board and the rest of the shareholders.

Prompt action needed from Bank

MERVYN KING, the deputy governor of the Bank of England may have trouble living up to his own expectations. In a recent speech at the *Employment Policy Institute*, after arguing that successful central bankers should aim to be both boring and invisible, he concluded: "If over the past 40 minutes I have been sufficiently boring, then I promise to carry on in that vein. If not, then I promise to mend my ways."

Since he is one of a rare breed of central bankers who find it difficult to frame a boring thought, he seems destined to disappoint himself.

Nor can the Bank of England be accused of courting boredom in recent months. Having still been biased in favour of tightening monetary policy as recently as June, it has now cut base rates by 1.25 per cent in three rapid steps since October. Nevertheless, this is a minimal response, since recent statistics have not painted a pretty picture for the economy.

Gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 0.4 per cent in the third quarter, but much of this growth seems likely to have come in the form of undesired stockpiling. The Confederation of British Industry's survey suggests companies are building unwanted inventories of finished goods at a faster pace than occurred at any time during the deep recession of 1990/91, and there is a definite risk the employment situation will deteriorate sharply as companies shed



GAVIN DAVIES

With business conditions dropping at a dangerous rate, the MPC should quickly move base rates to at least neutral

these stocks during the winter. This could weaken consumer sentiment still further, making it increasingly difficult for companies to reduce inventories without drastic reductions in production.

It is by no means out of the question that GDP will show an absolute decline in the current quarter, and the Bank may have to work very hard to prevent the situation from worsening in 1999. Business confidence in the UK has been plummeting all year, with the first signs of a really serious deterioration occurring as long ago as April. Initially, this was largely ignored by forecasters, many of whom have tradi-

tionally been wary of taking business opinion surveys too seriously. But, as David Walton of Goldman Sachs has been arguing all year, a large and persistent decline in business confidence - especially if it is evidenced in many different sectors - is usually a good leading indicator of subsequent changes in the official economic data.

As the graph shows, the present readings on business confidence taken from the CBI survey are as bad as anything we have seen in previous recessions, even in the deep slumps of 1974/75, 1980/81 and 1990/91. It is a sober fact that if previous links between business confidence and GDP are maintained in 1999, then the economy faces a very bleak immediate outlook. But it would be scaremongering to suggest that these links must inevitably be maintained next year, since there are several key differences between the present situation and the onset of previous recessions.

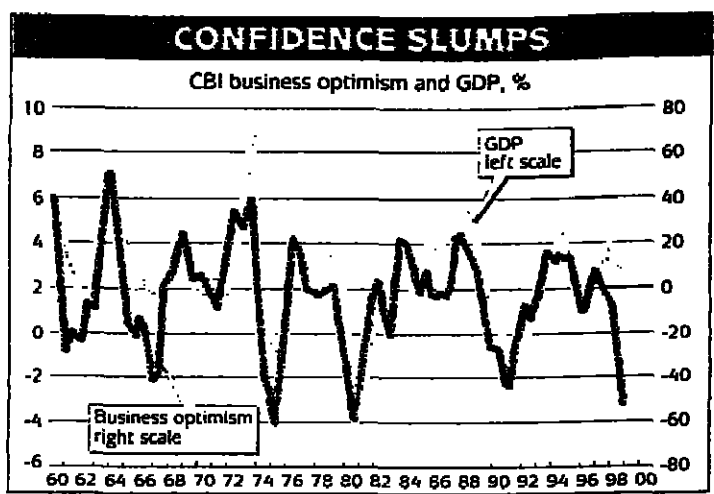
First, as the Chancellor has argued, the public accounts are in better shape than has commonly been the case in the past, and this offers considerable scope for an easing in fiscal policy to cushion the decline in output during the downturn.

Certainly, there is no reason why the "automatic stabilisers" in the fiscal system should not be allowed to work in full next year. This may increase public borrowing by 1-1.5 per cent of GDP in 1999/2000, but so

what? Because public expenditure has been so well controlled for the past five years, the planned increases in health and education spending over the rest of this Parliament can be comfortably afforded, and will offer a useful offset to recessionary forces in 1999. Incidentally, we seem to have heard rather little of late from those who wanted the Chancellor to raise personal taxes significantly as recently as last spring.

Second, there are few signs of the kind of severe financial imbalances in the system which have exacerbated recessions in the past. The private sector - companies and households taken together - are admittedly running a small financial deficit, but it is only a fraction of the 6 per cent of GDP deficit that triggered the recession in the late 1980s. The balance of payments is essentially in equilibrium, and there are few signs of excess in the housing market. Consequently, the problem areas which have forced savage adjustments on the economy in previous downturns are largely absent this time.

Third, and most important, there is no real possibility that inflation will prove to be a thorny issue for policymakers during the early phase of the current downturn. This is a crucial difference between the present situation and the onset of virtually all previous recessions since the Second World War. In fact, most



previous recessions have not only been accompanied by inflationary problems, but have actually been caused because policy has had to be tightened to eliminate severe inflationary tendencies.

With these inflationary tendencies generally persisting for a couple of years, policy has typically remained very tight for several quarters into the downturn phase. As a result, there has usually been no countervailing force to offset a decline in business confidence, and there has been nothing to stop worsening confidence from being translated into negative GDP. In fact, an inspection of all the periods of sharply declining business confidence since 1960 indicates that

they have never been accompanied in their early stages by an aggressive easing of monetary conditions.

This time it really should be very different. Assuming that real GDP is stagnant for much of next year, the level of output will have dropped well below trend before the end of 1999, and there will be a genuine risk that underlying inflation will drop far short of the Government's 2.5 per cent target in 2000.

Although the Bank of England's report on inflation in November failed to argue that these downside risks to prices were beginning to dominate, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) fortunately seems to have taken a very different view when it decided to cut base

rates by 0.5 per cent in its December meeting. Actually, the inflation report has not been a very good guide to policy during 1998, which suggests that its role may need to be re-considered.

The key point, though, is that the MPC has not yet succeeded in reducing base rates far enough to put monetary policy into "neutral". Average or mid-cycle real base rates are probably around 3 per cent, so with an inflation target of 2.5 per cent, a neutral level for nominal base rates would be about 5.5 per cent. At a current level of 6.25 per cent, rates are therefore still significantly above a neutral level.

With business conditions dropping at a thoroughly dangerous rate, and the threat of inflation conspicuous only by its absence, there are strong grounds for arguing that the MPC should quickly move base rates at least to neutral, and possibly much further than this.

The "Taylor Rule", which sets an optimal level of base rates according to the degree of inflation and spare capacity in the economy, suggests that rates should drop to below 5 per cent by the end of next year.

"Prompt Corrective Action" is a term that central banks have invented to describe the optimal way to respond to crises in the banking system. This time, the Bank needs to apply the same principle to the whole economy.

IN BRIEF

EMU is good for stock markets

INVESTORS regard monetary union as overwhelmingly good news for Europe's stock markets, according to a survey by investment bank Merrill Lynch and Gallup. Averaging 224 fund managers in continental Europe and around the world. Former high-yielding countries, which have seen the biggest interest rate cuts, such as Italy, Spain and Ireland, stand to gain the most from EMU while Germany is seen as standing to lose the most. Most fund managers expect the UK to join EMU in 2002, although UK-based investors set a slightly later date of 2003.

Asean summit

ASIAN FINANCE and foreign ministers yesterday said they had agreed "bold measures" to tackle the economic crisis ahead of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) summit on Tuesday. Thailand's foreign minister said the proposals included special incentives for new investment, including allowing 100 per cent foreign ownership and tax concessions, and an attempt to create closer financial links to China. Further details of the measures will be announced at the summit.

Call price to drop

THE COST of calls to mobile phones is set to fall following the recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report due to be revealed by the telephone watchdog Ofcom tomorrow. According to weekend reports, BT will be told to cut the cost of calls to mobile phones by up to 40 per cent, while mobile phone companies Vodafone and Cellnet, owned by BT and Securicor, will be told to cut the amount they charge BT to deliver the calls.

B&Q merger vote

SHAREHOLDERS WILL vote this week on the planned merger between Kingfisher's DIY arm B&Q and Castorama of France. The two companies said the French Stock Exchange had issued the documentation connected with the merger and Kingfisher's egm would be held in London on Thursday, with Castorama due to hold its meeting of shareholders in Lille on Friday.

Canadian banks

CANADA'S FINANCE minister is expected to block two mergers involving four of the country's largest banks today after Canada's competition bureau warned that they would lead to unacceptable concentration in credit-card services, retail and investment banking. Royal Bank of Canada, the country's largest, agreed to buy Bank of Montreal in a C\$19.23bn deal last January, while CIBC and TD Bank said they would merge three months later.

News Analysis: There is no evidence yet of the across-the-board decline that has hit manufacturing

Service sector has its bright spots

BY LEA PATERSON

THE OUTLOOK for the UK economy seems to get darker by the day. Last week, the Bank of England cut interest rates for the third time in as many months. This week, a raft of official data releases - inflation, unemployment, retail sales - will prompt another round of economic pessimism.

Amid the gloom, and there is plenty of it, it is easy to forget that companies in the UK service sector are still flourishing. For many, 1998 has been as good a year as 1997. If the economy is to escape recession next year, these companies must keep on growing. What are the chances?

Until recently the UK service sector looked unassailable. According to the latest official estimates, business services - that is, professional services such as management consultancy - grew by an annualised rate of around 7 per cent in the first six months of the year.

The UK telecoms industry grew by more than 10 per cent. Services prices have continued to increase, reflecting buoyant demand as well as a shortage of skilled labour. The latest inflation data put services inflation at 3.4 per cent, more than three times the rate of goods inflation.

Lately though, the outlook has started to look a little less rosy. Retailers were the first to feel the pinch of slowing domestic demand. Recent official data, as well as the more timely surveys of retail sales, have been dire.

The country's leading retailers, including the stalwart Marks & Spencer, began warning of a "bloodbath" on the high street. The autumn sales are still on, even though there are only a few weeks until Christmas.

The new price index published last week by the British Retail Consortium showed that prices on the high street last



Demand for big-ticket items such as foreign holidays is holding up, but restaurants, hotels and pubs are feeling the pinch

month were 1 per cent lower than at the same time last year. Retailing aside, there are signs of weakness in other service companies that directly serve UK consumers. Last week, Scottish & Newcastle became the latest in a string of brewers to express caution about the near-term outlook. "There is still reason to be concerned about consumer

confidence," said Sir Alistair Grant, the group's chairman. Times are getting tougher for hotels and caterers too, where official figures indicate that growth, is, at best, stagnating. But not all the so-called "consumer service" companies are suffering, suggesting that there may still be life in the UK consumer yet. Demand for certain "big ticket" items, foreign hol-

idays for example, is still holding up. "We're not seeing any evidence of a significant downturn in consumer demand," said Bill Nightingale, head of investor relations at the holiday company Airtours. "If anything, we're slightly ahead of where we thought we'd be."

Forward-looking surveys, though, suggest Airtours' experience is the exception not the rule. A recent Confederation of British Industry/Deloitte & Touche survey found that confidence had fallen sharply among "consumer service" companies such as restaurants and bars.

"Consumer services firms expect the volume of business to be lower and to see a sharp cut in the value of future business," said Martin Scituna, chairman of Deloitte & Touche. Financial services are also showing signs of faltering. Investment banks have been laying staff off since the summer's financial crisis. However, the weaknesses seem, to date at

least, less pronounced than for "consumer service" companies. Most major retail banks insist loan quality is holding up, and consumer lending continues to grow sharply. The latest CBI survey found that although there had been sharp falls in confidence among financial services companies, most were still reporting healthy business volumes.

There is still one bright spot in the services sector - professional and business services such as accountancy, management consultancy and IT. Many of these companies are enjoying record levels of profit. This is in part because issues such as the launch of the euro, the year 2000 and the breakneck pace of change in many industries keeps them busy despite weakening domestic demand. And it is partly because the bulk of work for accountants and consultants and the like comes from other companies, not individual consumers. It takes time for slowing consumer de-

mand to feed through into lower demand for professional services.

Andrew Given, group finance director of Logica, the IT consultancy, said: "We are not seeing any evidence of a slowdown in the market sectors in which we tend to operate - finance, telecommunications and utilities. Our business is growing and we expect it to continue to

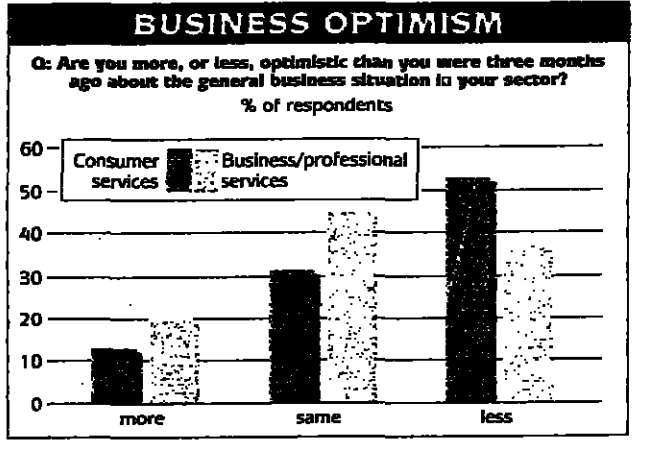
grow. We are still recruiting strongly, for example."

Simon Gaysford, chief executive of London Economics, a privately-owned consultancy, paints a similar picture. "We're trading strongly and our pipeline is looking strong," he said. "We're keeping a constant eye on things but there's no sign of any deterioration."

The accountancy firm KPMG is also upbeat, although Alan Reid, head of finance, has noticed a slowing in business in northern England. "We've seen some indications of weakness in our northern business area, that is, from Leeds to Manchester. There are also some indications in the Midlands. But we've seen no sign of a downturn in London," he said.

So although growth in services is undoubtedly slowing, there is as yet no evidence of the across-the-board decline that has hit the manufacturers. A combination of structural factors and cuts in UK interest rates should stop the economic slowdown spreading to all parts of the sector, although it seems inevitable that retailers and other companies directly exposed to UK consumers are in for a shaky start to 1999.

With a bit of luck, the economic slowdown that most forecasters have pencilled in for next year should not turn into anything nastier.



Tarmac and Aggregate on track for £1.8bn merger

TARMAC AND AGGREGATE Industries are in the advanced stages of negotiations that could lead to a £1.8bn merger of the two building materials groups.

However Tarmac yesterday denied suggestions that a deal could be announced this week and said it was in talks with a number of the industry's key players.

A link-up between Tarmac and Aggregate would create a quarrying company big enough to rival established leaders such as Hanson, RMC and other international groups. Aggregate, based in Leicestershire, confirmed it was in talks with its Wolverhampton-based rival in October.

A central feature of the talks

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

has been the future of Tarmac's construction division. It is thought that this division may now be de-merged into a separate company with a cash injection of £100m-£150m.

The division accounts for half of Tarmac's sales but only 20 per cent of profits. It is a complex business with a large number of contracts.

It is thought that the de-merged construction business will be run by Tarmac chief executive Neville Simms. Aggregate's chief executive Peter Tom would take the same role at the enlarged group. The City believes the com-

bined group might run into problems with the regulatory authorities because it would dominate the quarrying industry in the Midlands and the market for coated stones such as asphalt.

In recent weeks, Irish rival CRH and Amec are both thought to have put in bids for Tarmac, which has seen its share price dragged down by its construction business.

Shares in both companies soared in October when it was first reported they were in talks. Aggregate has jumped from 56.5p to 70.25p while Tarmac has improved from 80p to 110p.

The merger is expected to save costs by cutting corporate overheads and merging the two distribution networks.

Japan puts bank under state rule

JAPAN took another step yesterday towards cleaning up its banking industry by putting Nippon Credit Bank under state control, overriding objections from the bank's executives who insisted it was not insolvent.

It is only the second time since World War II that a top lender has come under state control. In October, the government also took over the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan when a huge burden of bad loans threatened to sink it.

The government's financial watchdog declared NCB insolvent on Friday, with at least \$2 trillion yen (£16.3bn) in unrecoverable or high-risk loans and massive stock valuation losses. NCB petitioned the government

yesterday but the last minute appeal failed.

NCB's president Shigeoki Togo, a former central banker, said it disputed the government's findings and that the decision was regrettable and taken too quickly. All of the bank's top executives will resign.

The government is expected to announce plans shortly for buying all outstanding shares of Nippon Credit. But because the bank has been declared insolvent, shareholders are unlikely to receive much, if any, compensation.

That would result in big losses for major shareholders such as Japan's Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank and Nippon Life Insurance Co. — AP

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Rogue trades have had their final day

TODAY FOR the first time, any late rogue trades on the Stock Exchange's computerised order book will not distort the closing Footsie index.

More than a year after Chancellor Gordon Brown switched on what was to be a highly controversial method of share trading, the Stock Exchange has introduced a system that should iron out the impact of maverick deals.

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

An impressive regulatory system has been established to counter rogue trades. But they have a habit of occurring towards the stock market close with a consequent disruptive impact on the final and most important Footsie calculation of the day.

Any distortion is usually of relatively minor significance although the 100 Footsie constituents are all traded on the order book. On the only publicly declared occasion when Footsie was recalculated, observers were surprised by the gap that emerged.

The revision occurred on New Year's Eve, a vital day in the investment calendar as it is the cut off date for many portfolio valuations.

Then, a closing 1.5 points gain was adjusted to a 3.2 plus and 11 Footsie constituents had their closing prices revised. Perhaps not an alarming change but big enough to have had a considerable impact in the rarefied world of investment performance.

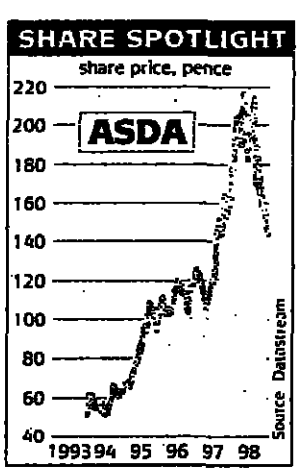
On a share-by-share basis the new system should end fiascos of the type when two late trades one Friday in July created consternation at Smiths Industries, the aerospace to medical group. The deals, at 71p, were accepted as the closing price; they compared with the more than 750p ruling for much of the day.

On another occasion three Footsie constituents were the subjects of late trades utterly out of line with reality.

There is a suspicion that some trades are deliberately inputted incorrectly to try to

establish a favourable position. Other daft deals have been put down to spaghetti-fingered traders. On one occasion one trader actually confused two shares, punching a Cable & Wireless price onto the Imperial Chemical Industries screen. The deal was subsequently cancelled.

However, it is claimed that most of the seemingly daft



deals are the fag ends of multi-million pound portfolio trades; the final, often small deal in a string of trades when the price is of little significance to the whole exercise. Derivative-related basket trades, arbitrage and hedging are regarded as the sort of activities responsible for most maverick trades.

Until today the last order book trade represented the

basis of a Footsie calculation. Now the new closing price will be an average based on order book deals in the last 10 minutes of trading. The so-called Volume-Weighted Average Price will be the result of dividing the value of trades by the volume. If there are no late transactions the last order book trade will be used as the closing price. Under the new system the Smith Industries closing price would have been 752.75p not 711p.

Off order book trades involving market makers, which are still a large slice of daily business, will continue to be excluded from providing any influence on the blue chip index.

Footsie, in its final week labouring under the old system, had a poor time despite a half-a-percentage point base rate cut and yet another mega deal. It retreated 40.2 points to 5,541.7 and will need a Christmas rally of titanic proportions to achieve some of the heady year-end forecasts which once floated around.

In the Christmas run up there will not be a compelling spread of company results to offer much cheer.

This week the only Footsie constituents in sight are Asda, the supermarket chain, and Securicor, the security and mobile phone group.

Judging from the way Asda shares have performed, its interim results will sadly lack any suggestion of festive glow. There is little doubt with consumer spending under pressure Asda, like other retailers, is feeling the pinch and its management, which so successfully rescued the business in the early 1990s, faces its most difficult year.

The shares, down to 23p when Tony bigwig Archie Norman launched the revival, hit 218p in April. Last week they closed at 143.5p.

Profits of around £200m, up from £190m, seem likely but the stock market will be more interested in any clues it is able to get about current trad-

ing, particularly the Christmas experience.

Two other hard pressed retailers are on the results schedule. Carpetright and MFI will have particularly woeful tales to tell.

Both have felt the spending slow down. Carpetright is likely to suffer a half-time fall from £16.1m to £12m and MFI, which has suffered the indignity of being expelled from the mid-cap index, could even slip into the red.

Forecasts range from a £6m profit to a £10m loss. Last year the furniture group produced a £35.4m profit.

Securicor's year's profit could emerge at around £100m against £59m. The group's minority shareholding in the Cellnet mobile phone group continues to intrigue with many observers convinced the day is nearing when the controlling shareholder BT buys out the Securicor involvement.

Others reporting include Vaux, the Sunderland group planning to unload its two breweries and 350 bottom-of-the-barrel pubs to concentrate on its hotels and top of the range pubs. Its year's profits should emerge at £42m against £38.3m.

NFC, the transport group which stems from the famous National Freight Corporation management and worker buy-out, has found the going tough lately but should achieve an 8 per cent year's gain to £125m. First Choice Holidays, the packaged holidays group, should manage £48m against £15m.

Leeds, a textile group, also features this week. It has the somewhat dubious distinction of sporting a 17.5 per cent historic fall, despite the promise of a maintained dividend. Although profits are expected to be lower, say around £6m against £8.7m, there is even thought to be a good chance the dividend will be increased from last year's 7p a share total. The shares closed at 51p Friday.



Core Design is seeking an injunction against a firm planning to use the Tomb Raider trademark

Computer boys battle for the rights to Lara Croft

LARA CROFT, the pixilated beauty of the Tomb Raider computer game, is at the centre of a tug of love between two computer companies. A subsidiary of the software group Eidos is suing Doncaster-based Fire International in connection with a device that allows players to cheat at the game.

The software is the latest in a new breed of best-selling, and perfectly legal, cartridges that give computer buffs a better chance to win at their favourite Sony Playstation games.

Fire International publishes a number of these gadgets under names such as "Cheat-master" and "Explorer", and was allegedly planning one for Tomb Raider III, the new Lara Croft adventure. However, Core Design, a wholly-owned Eidos subsidiary, is seeking an injunction to stop Fire International from using the Tomb Raider mark in its cheat software.

The computer group wants the High Court to stop Fire from "passing off or attempting to pass off any computer games software and/or hardware" as Core's games through the use of the Tomb Raider name or mark.

In a writ lodged last week, Core claims that the use would be an infringement of its trademark and demands unspecified damages. It also wants the little software group to destroy or deliver up all the computer software which would breach the trademark.

THE CELEBRITY chef Marco Pierre White is embroiled in a legal row with the builders of the Titanic over the name of his latest restaurant.

The Belfast-based ship-builder Harland and Wolff want to stop the enfant terrible of British cuisine from using the

WHO'S SUING WHOM FRANCESCO GUERRERA

name and mark of the ill-fated vessel in his brand new London restaurant, jointly owned with the media group Granada.

The Titanic - housed in the former Regent Palace hotel near Piccadilly Circus - was opened last week by Meg Mathews, the journalist wife of the Oasis star Noel Gallagher, amid the customary media hype.

But the Northern Irish ship-maker's action is certain to spoil the party. In a High Court writ lodged last week, the company says that "Titanic" is its registered trademark.

It claims that by naming the posh eatery after the ship, Mr White is infringing the patent. Harland is asking the judges to

order the cook and Granada to destroy "all articles, documents or other materials" and to wipe out "all marks or designs" which could breach the trademark.

The builders of the ship, which sank on its maiden voyage in 1912, also want unspecified damages and have demanded an inquiry into how much money Marco Pierre White has made while using the name.

Harland's writ is the second wave in the legal storm engulfing the Titanic restaurant. Earlier this month, Marco Pierre White's rival Oliver Peyton took exception to the location of the restaurant just above his own super-trendy Atlantic Bar and Grill. The top restaurateur complained that customers get confused by the embarrassment of culinary riches, and issued a writ against the landlords who, coincidentally, are Granada and Post House Hotels.

THE TITANIC plot thickens with news that Rupert Murdoch's Twentieth Century Fox is claiming that Harland's trademark is invalid.

The maker of the Leonardo Di Caprio/Kate Winslet blockbuster maintains that the mark was not registered properly and wants it revoked.

The US film house alleges that the registration was in breach of the Trade Marks Act 1994. In a High Court application, it says that the mark was "devoid of distinctive character", was of "such a nature as to deceive the public" and was registered in "bad faith".

Twentieth Century Fox adds that the registration broke the law because the mark was "identical to an earlier trade mark which had a reputation in the United Kingdom" and was used for a different class of goods. The company also alleges that, due to the use made by Harland, the trademark "is liable to mislead the public".

Twentieth Century Fox is asking the High Court to rule that the trademark was "invalidly registered" or to scrap it altogether. It also wants its costs paid by the Belfast shipbuilder.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL giant Pfizer is taking a hard line over its anti-impotence blockbuster Viagra.

The US company is seeking an injunction to stop a Dean Stithwenis, trading as Viagra-Plus of Wolverhampton, supplying any substance under the Viagra name. They also want to prevent him from using the name Viagra in any form.

The American giant also wants to cause a few blunders among Wolverhampton residents. In a High Court writ, it demands that Mr Stithwenis "disclose the name and addresses of all persons, firms or companies from whom he has at any time obtained or received or to whom he has supplied" his Viagra-Plus.

Bills paid later as economy slows

COMPANIES are taking longer to pay bills as the economy slows down, with large companies the worst offenders, according to a survey of 212,000 businesses published today.

BY SIMON DUKE

A survey, conducted by Experian, the database and credit rating group, reveals that the average payment period has slipped by 0.9 days since six months ago, despite recent legislation designed to speed up invoice payments. But while small- and medium-

sized firms still take an average of 55 days to pay up, large companies take 72 days to settle their bills, two days more than six months ago.

Banks are the worst offenders among large companies, taking 82 days to pay their invoices, 16 days more than in May, while water companies form the worst individual industry.

Large increases were also observed in the pharmaceutical

sector, where payment took an average of 59 days, five more than earlier in the year, while large food retailers now take 73 days to settle accounts, an increase of four days.

According to Peter Brooker at Experian, large companies only give their own customers an average of 37 days' credit, while taking twice that time to settle their own accounts.

"This means they are in effect using their suppliers to fund a month's free credit.

Many of their suppliers are much smaller and suffer from cash-flow problems as a result," he said.

Food retailers, who give their customers a mere 1.1 days' credit, take more than two months to pay their suppliers.

Mr Brooker added: "It is no coincidence that company failures are on the increase again, and that one of the main reasons is poor cash flow because of the late payments of invoices."

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THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 24 December

Matt Dawson overcame all

Blood

Leicest happy

The multi-millionaire David Jenkins and a pot of his protein powder at his San Diego office *Fred Greaves*

their hands and say "never did". People, he says, like Black and Kriss Akabusi, and the 1998 Olympic 400m hurdles champion and current president of UK Athletics 98, David Hemery. "David advised me before I started getting into steroids," Jenkins recalls. "He knew absolutely nothing about it. I sold him down the river and that wasn't cool. But there is something about Hemery - he isn't a liar. It reverberates



THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 **European Football Yearbook 1998-99**, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback, £23.95)
- 2 **Addicted**, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99)
- 3 **Back Home: How the World Watched France 98**, Andy Lyons and Mike Ticher (When Saturday Comes, paperback, £9.99)
- 4 **Turning Point**, Sean Fitzpatrick and Duncan Johnstone (Penguin, hardback, £16.99)
- 5 **Shark Among The Dolphins**, Steve Hubbard (Ballantine Books, paperback, £5.50)
- 6 **Club Colours**, Bob Bickerton (Hamlyn, hardback, £25.00)
- 7 **Bleak and Blue - 22 Years at the Manchester Academy of Football**, Farce Winstanley (Sigma, paperback, £8.95)
- 8 **Blade Runners - Lives in Football**, Gary Armstrong (Hallamshire Press, hardback, £16.95)
- 9 **The Carling Ultimate Football Guide 1999**, edited by Mike Williams (Sky Blue Publications, paperback, £14.95)
- 10 **The Baggy Green: World Series to World Champions**, Viv Jenkins (New Holland, paperback, £14.99)

List compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and 51 Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530), and www.sportspages.co.uk

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Rives ha

THE FRENCH rugby legend Jean Pierre Rives was the captain of Northern Ireland last night when he drew Ulster a 10-10 game against Stade Français in the semi-finals of the European Cup.

Of the only non-French team to win a tournament after World War II, Munster and Leinster fell by the wayside in the quarter-finals. Ulster, the French champions, were beaten 10-6 on January 10 at the Stade de Toulouse.

Johnny Vale and drawn at Edinburgh and drawn at Edinburgh. Rives at the head of the team at home.

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American misery is complete

HARD THOUGH it is to contemplate, America's golfers contrived a defeat as miserable and as wretched as anything England's cricketers can contrive on Australian soil. The true measure of the scale of their collapse was that the Internationals needed only two points from the final day's singles yesterday to win the Presidents Cup for the first time and duly collected them from the top two matches.

Craig Parry, a man whose form has been revitalised by playing in front of his home gallery on a Royal Melbourne course he played regularly in his youth, beat Justin Leonard 5 and 3 before Nick Price, a winner as an individual on both the previous Sundays, took the Internationals to the 16th point mark that secured victory with a 2 and 1 win over David Duval. Now neither the Presidents Cup nor the Ryder Cup resides on American soil.

All the other 10 singles instantly became meaningless, including the duel between Tiger Woods and Greg Norman. The American captain, Jack Nicklaus, had chosen that match-up after Tiger asked to face "the Shark", but it had all the hallmarks of a sop to television networks having to pad out their broadcasts once the contest was effectively over.

For the record, Woods won at the last to earn only his second point of the match. The singles were shared 6-6 leaving the United States with their worst-ever defeat in such competitions, 20-11½. As at Valderrama last year in the Ryder Cup, the damage was done in the foursomes and fourballs when the Internationals created a nine-stroke lead.

"As with the Ryder Cup, the American players have the problem that the other team wants to beat the US more than the US wants to beat them," said Tim Finchem, the US Tour commissioner. Mark

GOLF
BY ANDY FARRELL
in Melbourne

Calavecchia seemed to confirm the mood of the visiting team when he said: "It never dawned on me we might lose. It is never fun to lose, but if you are going to lose, it is better to lose to these guys than to the Europeans."

Nicklaus's team would have had to win 11 of the 12 singles to complete a remarkable victory and with a roster of star names, including the top four on the world rankings, logic suggested that Woods, the world No 1, should lead off the order.

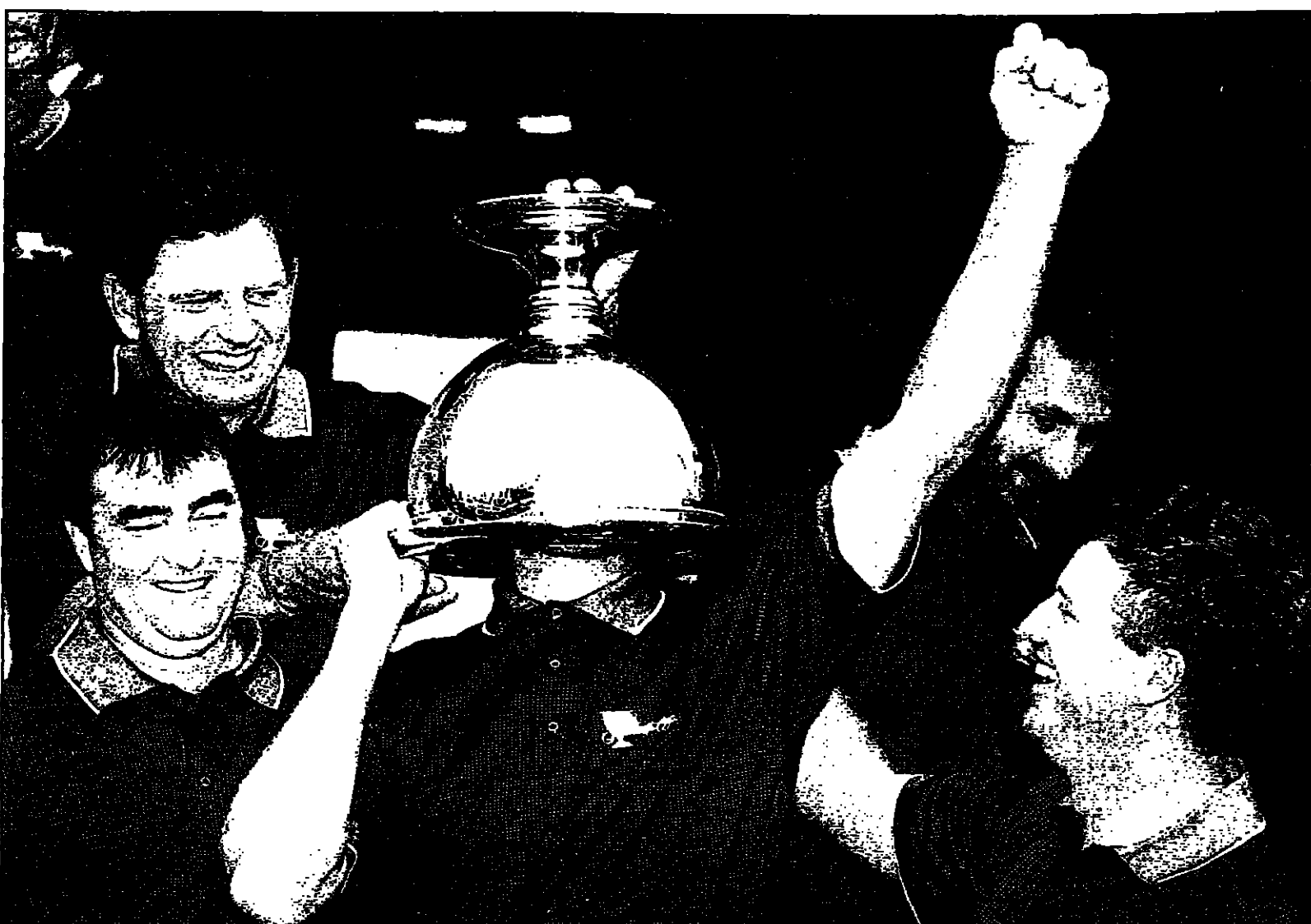
Instead, Woods was buried at 11th - where he would have needed nine of the first 10 Americans to win to keep his match alive - and first up was Leonard, whose combined Ryder and Presidents Cup record now reads won 1, lost 8 and halved 3.

Nicklaus, whose unsurpassed record of 18 major titles was exactly double the aggregate tally of his team, now has the dubious distinction of being the first American captain to lose in the Presidents Cup as well as the first to lose the Ryder Cup at home, at his own Muirfield Village in 1987.

"Until we win on American soil, we cannot crow too much," said Peter Thomson, the International captain, who seemed to have the measure of his opposite number at every turn. "But this is beyond our dreams."

The five-times Open champion, who partnered Kel Nagle to victory in the World Cup at Royal Melbourne almost 40 years ago, added: "This is something above your own career. It is a great honour to be invited to be a captain and I suppose this is the biggest thing I've ever done."

The Australian only took over as captain shortly before



Down Under winner Stuart Appleby wears the Presidents Cup for Peter Thomson, Craig Parry, Nick Price and Steve Elkington Reuters

the second Presidents Cup two years ago, which resulted in a one-point defeat for the Internationals. "It was then that the complexion of the event changed for me," Price said. "It was then that I realised you could take a group of 12 players from the four corners of the world and make them a team. In the first match we were not a team, the second

time we came close, but this time, thanks to Peter, we were a real team." Eleven of the Internationals won at least two points and the other, Paraguay's Carlos Franco, gained some consolation with a half against Phil Mickelson. Having denied it all week, Thomson finally admitted that local knowledge of Royal Melbourne helped his side, al-

though it was Shigeki Maruyama, who had never played here before, who ended the perfect 5-0 record. "Maruyama has been outstanding and has established a personality," Thomson said. The 29-year-old Japanese player thumped the air in celebration of his 3 and 2 win over John Huston. "His enthusiasm has been infectious," Price said.

"Every day he has walked into the locker-room with a huge smile on his face." (Royal Melbourne: Second day Saturday: Morning foursomes: F. Nobilo & G. Turner (Internationals) bt D. Love III & J. Leonard (USA) 2 up; L. Janzen & M. Calavecchia (US) halved with G. Norman & S. Elkington (Int); S. Maruyama & C. Franco (Int) bt T. Woods & F. Couples (USA) 1 up; S. Appleby & N. Price (Int) bt P. Mickelson & D. Duval (USA) 1 up; E. Els & V. Singh (Int) bt J. Furrk & S. Hoch (USA) 6 and 4. Afternoon fourballs: M. O'Meara & S. Hoch (US) bt S. Appleby (Int) & P. Mickelson & D. Duval (US) 3 and 2; F. Els & V. Singh (Int) bt T. Woods & S. Elkington (Int) 1 up. Final scores: Internationals 20½, United States 11½.

Selectors facing new headaches

THE BRITISH National Championships at the Cardiff Institute of Sport yesterday were intended to settle the format of the international squad for the first quarter of next year, but by the end of the day it had created as many problems as it solved. There were a handful of categories in which there is no question of ranking - the top fighters are evident. Into this category falls Kate Howey, the world middleweight champion who, at 25, remains dominant. In the semi-final Karen Powell and, in the final, Rachel Wilding failed to penetrate the defence of the champion and could not

JUDO
BY PHILIP NICKSAN
in Cardiff

stop the winning attacks. Similarly, Chloe Cowan, the European light-heavyweight bronze medalist, beat her main rival, Michelle Rogers, once again; and Georgina Singleton, the European featherweight silver medalist, crushed all opponents. The bantamweight Joyce Heron was not challenged.

In the men's division, the light-middleweight Graeme Randall, the light heavyweight Keith Davis and the heavy-

weight Richard Blanes were never really tested. However, elsewhere there was havoc. In beating Debbie Allan, the European lightweight silver medalist, the veteran campaigner Nicola Fairbrother showed that she is still a real contender for Sydney. Similarly, Ryan Birch, at middleweight, bounced the 23-year-old Winston Gordon. And in the men's lightweight, there was complete confusion. The talented 25-year-old Danny Kingston failed the weight by nearly two kilos. It is now likely that he will not be considered for international competition for

the first part of next year - the important run-up to the European Championships. But the title did not go, as expected, to Lee Burridge, but to the outsider Eric Bonti, who footstep Burridge and then threw Jean Paul Bell in the final. And then there is the women's light-middleweight, in which, from a string of good, mature fighters, the 19-year-old Gemma Hutchins from Newcastle emerged as champion, having courageously won a series of hard fights. The new British coach, Udo Quellmalz, and his selection panel have a tough task ahead.

Brown strikes it rich

KEVIN BROWN yesterday became baseball's first \$100m man, by signing a seven-year, \$105m (£63m) contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers. At an average of \$15m per season, Brown also surpassed Mo Vaughn as the highest annual earner. Vaughn signed a six-year deal with the Dodgers' American League neighbours, the Anaheim Angels, earlier this month that averages \$13.3m per year. "We were comfortable with the terms. We were comfortable with the marketplace," said Kevin Malone, the Dodgers general manager, who has re-

vamped a team that has not been to a World Series since 1988. The 33-year-old Brown won 18 games in 1998 and led the San Diego Padres to their first World Series appearance since 1984. The Dodgers will be Brown's third team in as many seasons after he helped the Florida Marlins to a World Series triumph in 1997. Scott Boras, Brown's agent, said that his client will receive \$10m next season, along with a \$5m signing bonus, and \$15m over each of the remaining six

PLUMPTON

HYPERION
1.00 Santabless 1.30 Tremallt (nb) 2.00 Whippers Delight 2.30 Sadler's Secret 3.00 Potentate 3.30 FRIOLIN (nap)

GOING: Soft
Left-hand, undulating course with sharp bends. Tricky downhill fence in back straight. Uphill run-in of 200yds.

Race starts at 12.45. The race is off the 4275 south of Heywards Heath. Plumpton railway station adjoins the course. ADMITTANCE: Members £3; Terraces £3. Accompanied children under 10 free, except into the Club Enclosure. CAR PARK: Free. Vehicle entry to Silver Ring £5, including all occupants.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS
LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 26 wins from 54 runners (success rate 48.1%). J Jenkins 13-73 (17.8%). R Rowe 12-85 (14%). J Neville 11-26 (42.3%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 36 wins from 104 rides (34.6%). M A Fitzgerald 15-69 (21.7%). D O'Sullivan 15-52 (33.3%). A Maguire 14-65 (21.5%).

FAVOURITES: 164-448 (41%).
BLINKERED TRAVELLER: None.
LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: Shutan (230) sent 377 miles.

1.00 ARDINGLY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f
1. 26-01 LIMIT THE DAMAGE (12) (C) J. Wyley 5 11.5. J. Goldstein 11.5. 2. 30-01 SANTABLESS (47) M. Pinner 5 11.5. W. Williams 11.5. 3. 30-01 CLEAR WATER (24) P. Widdow 6 12. J. Wyley 11.5. 4. 30-01 DALCASSIAN KING (17) J. Henderson 5 12. M. A Fitzgerald 11.5. 5. 00-01 FRIDOLIN (nap) J. Goldstein 4 12. J. Wyley 11.5. 6. 00-01 QUAYHORN (25) N. Baddeley 5 12. R. Thornton 11.5. 7. 01-01 CUREAL (24) J. Coles 5 12. J. Murphy 11.5. 8. 01-01 SWIFT VENTURE (10) G. Budge 5 12. F. Flaherty 11.5. 9. 01-01 CALAMITY CALMED (24) P. Nichols 5 12. J. Tizzard 11.5. 10. 01-01 JUST STEER (24) J. Mullins 5 12. J. Goldstein 11.5. 11. 01-01 NEWHALL GIRL (24) P. Widdow 5 12. J. Wyley 11.5. 12. 01-01 NIGHTMARE (23) L. Wink 5 12. J. Apple 11.5.

BETTING: 4-6 Santabless, 9-2 Dalcaassian King, 10-1 Buckskin Cameo, 14-1 Just Steer, 16-1 Limit The Damage, Clear Water, Quayhorn, 20-1 others.
FORM VERDICT
SANTABLESS is the obvious one here, though there's every chance of big improvement from Dalcaassian King, in particular.

1.30 OFFHAM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 5f
1. 22-01 KELLY MAC (22) (C) D. O'Brien 8 11. J. Apple 11.5. 2. 22-01 STRONG STUFF (47) M. Pinner 8 11.5. J. Goldstein 11.5. 3. 22-01 REGAL ALPA (21) (C) D. O'Brien 8 11.5. J. Goldstein 11.5. 4. 22-01 RIVER BAY (11) M. H. Jones 7 11.5. J. Wyley 11.5. 5. 22-01 SCORIE GIRL (11) (C) J. Mullins 8 12. J. Goldstein 11.5. 6. 22-01 TREMALLT (17) (T) J. George 7 12. J. T. Jones 11.5. 7. 22-01 SHANAGORE WARRIOR (12) S. Mellor 8 12. C. Webb 11.5. 8. 22-01 INDIAN RUN (10) R. Hodges 9 12. T. Dismore 11.5. 9. 22-01 RUTHS BOY (87) (C) M. A. E. Johnson 9 12. J. Johnson 11.5. 10. 22-01 ANOTHER CHASE (24) C. Mellor 10 12. M. A. E. Johnson 11.5.

BETTING: 7-4 Tremallt, 4-1 Scobie Girl, 9-2 Kelly Mac, 5-1 Strong Stuff, 10-1 Regal Aun, River Bay, 14-1 Another Chase, 16-1 others.
FORM VERDICT
An interesting race with a dangerous dark contender in Strong Stuff, plus Kelly Mac who would have a good chance on his best form. Tony McCoy is the ground don't expect. Scobie Girl is another to consider, though the one to beat is almost certainly TREMALLT who won as he pleased last time and is working with in the better race.

2.00 HARRY PYRAH MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f 110yds
1. 22-01 MISS DIXON (22) (T) R. Buckle 9 12. J. P. Powell 11.5. 2. 22-01 JURASSIC CLASSIC (18) (C) M. L. Richards 11 11.5. J. M. Richards 11.5. 3. 22-01 GROSVENOR (14) (C) (B) P. Nichols 7 11.5. R. Durno 11.5. 4. 22-01 WARRIORS DELIGHT (12) (C) G. Coles 10 11.5. J. Cammion 11.5. 5. 22-01 KILMINGTON (11) J. George 9 11.5. J. P. Hild 11.5. 6. 22-01 BROOK BEE (42) (B) M. Gassie 6 12. D. Lusty 11.5. 7. 22-01 PRIMITIVE PONY (24) M. O'Hare 7 12. J. Goldstein 11.5.

Minimum weight: 10st. This handicap weights: Brook Bee 10st 7lb, Primitive Pony 10st 11lb, 11lb, 12lb, 13lb, 14lb, 15lb, 16lb, 17lb, 18lb, 19lb, 20lb, 21lb, 22lb, 23lb, 24lb, 25lb, 26lb, 27lb, 28lb, 29lb, 30lb, 31lb, 32lb, 33lb, 34lb, 35lb, 36lb, 37lb, 38lb, 39lb, 40lb, 41lb, 42lb, 43lb, 44lb, 45lb, 46lb, 47lb, 48lb, 49lb, 50lb, 51lb, 52lb, 53lb, 54lb, 55lb, 56lb, 57lb, 58lb, 59lb, 60lb, 61lb, 62lb, 63lb, 64lb, 65lb, 66lb, 67lb, 68lb, 69lb, 70lb, 71lb, 72lb, 73lb, 74lb, 75lb, 76lb, 77lb, 78lb, 79lb, 80lb, 81lb, 82lb, 83lb, 84lb, 85lb, 86lb, 87lb, 88lb, 89lb, 90lb, 91lb, 92lb, 93lb, 94lb, 95lb, 96lb, 97lb, 98lb, 99lb, 100lb.

BETTING: 1-4 Whippers Delight, 8-4 Miss Dixie, 11-4 Grosvenor, 10-1 Kilming, Brook Bee, 20-1 Jurassic Classic, 20-1 Primitive Pony.
FORM VERDICT
WHIPPERS DELIGHT goes well round here and is in better form now than he has been for a while. Miss Dixie's fitness has to be taken on trust but she tends to run well enough first time back and may well go close.

2.30 LAMBERT SMITH HAMPTON MAIDEN HURDLE (E) £3,000 added 3Y0 2m 1f
1. 3-01 BHUTAN (16) M. R. Hovley 11 3. J. O'Sullivan 11.5. 2. 3-01 PULSAR (16) M. Hovley 11 3. J. O'Sullivan 11.5. 3. 3-01 KPOLO (24) E. Johnson 11 3. D. Gallagher 11.5. 4. 3-01 MARK TIME (23) P. Hedges 11 3. J. O'Sullivan 11.5. 5. 3-01 SADDLES SECRET (11) M. P. Hovley 11 3. J. O'Sullivan 11.5. 6. 3-01 TAILUM (11) D. O'Brien 11 3. J. O'Sullivan 11.5. 7. 3-01 BOW BELLS (15) J. Joseph 10 12. J. Goldstein 11.5. 8. 3-01 GHOST PAT (15) R. O'Sullivan 10 12. M. A. Fitzgerald 11.5. 9. 3-01 LITTLE RISK (17) M. L. Jones 10 12. J. O'Sullivan 11.5. 10. 3-01 MISS SCOOTER (17) M. Hovley 10 12. D. Crouch 11.5.

BETTING: 4-6 Bhutan, 5-2 Saddle Secret, 10-1 Ghost Pat, 14-1 Mark Time, 16-1 Kpo, Bow Bells, 21-1 Tailum, 21-1 others.
FORM VERDICT
BHUTAN was going the right way on the Flat in Ireland and certainly showed plenty of promise on his hurdle debut last month. Saddle Secret has very solid place claims.

3.00 YEAR'S END NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m
1. 41-01 ROULETTE (12) (C) D. O'Brien 6 11.5. M. A. Fitzgerald 11.5. 2. 41-01 CALVARIO (14) J. O'Brien 7 12. J. Apple 11.5. 3. 31-01 POTENTATE (USA) (C) M. P. Hovley 7 12. J. Apple 11.5. 4. 31-01 SALUSON (24) (C) J. Wyley 9 12. J. Goldstein 11.5.

BETTING: 4-5 Royal Toast, 5-4 Potentate, 10-1 Calvario, 25-1 Seltzing.
FORM VERDICT
Potentate was a high class hurdler, but the way he has been campaigned does not suggest he has ever been seen as a long-term chasing prospect. ROYAL TOAST has plenty of scope for this game. On the other hand, and is preferred.

3.30 LADBROKE LAST RACE HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (E) £3,500 added 2m 1f
1. 33-01 NESSIN DORO (11) (C) S. Mellor 6 12. J. Wyley 11.5. 2. 33-01 FROOLIN (13) D. O'Brien 6 12. J. Wyley 11.5. 3. 33-01 MULTI FRANCHISE (12) (C) M. L. Jones 5 12. J. Apple 11.5. 4. 33-01 ALPACA (24) (C) R. Hodges 6 12. J. Apple 11.5. 5. 33-01 CLASH OF SWIRLS (14) (C) D. O'Brien 5 12. J. Murphy 11.5. 6. 33-01 AUGUST TWELFTH (10) (C) D. O'Brien 5 12. J. Wyley 11.5. 7. 33-01 DESSAY (12) (C) J. O'Brien 5 12. J. Wyley 11.5. 8. 33-01 ALPACA (24) (C) R. Hodges 6 12. J. Apple 11.5. 9. 33-01 CLASH OF SWIRLS (14) (C) D. O'Brien 5 12. J. Murphy 11.5. 10. 33-01 AUGUST TWELFTH (10) (C) D. O'Brien 5 12. J. Wyley 11.5. 11. 33-01 DESSAY (12) (C) J. O'Brien 5 12. J. Wyley 11.5. 12. 33-01 ALPACA (24) (C) R. Hodges 6 12. J. Apple 11.5.

BETTING: 11-4 August Twelfth, 5-1 Froolin, 7-4 Nessin Doro, 5-1 Multi Franchise, 8-1 Alpaca, 9-1 Darby, 20-1 Clash of Swirls.
FORM VERDICT
Froolin's stamina is slightly suspect on this ground but AUGUST TWELFTH will be playing on when some of his rivals have tired.

Kiev best Euro value

DYNAMO KIEV look the best value at 12-1 with William Hill ahead of Wednesday's quarter final draw for the European Cup. The Ukrainians, known principally for the exploits of their top class strikers, Andriy Shevchenko and Serhiy Rebrov, were defeated just once on their way to winning the tough Group E, which contained both the French and English league winners, Lens and Arsenal.

Internazionale, who beat the defending champions Real Madrid 3-1 en route to winning Group C, are the favourites but have been beset by injury problems - notably to Ronaldo and Roberto Baggio - this season. However, they are showing signs of finding their form in Serie A. They won 1-0 at Udinese yesterday, thanks to, significantly, a late Ronaldo goal set up by Baggio.

The second favourites are Manchester United, but they conceded a worrying 11 goals - more than any of the other seven quarter-finalists - in the group stages. Juventus, the 1996 European Cup winners - who have

SPORTS BETTING
BY IAN DAVIES

also been the best side in Europe for the last two seasons, but have somehow contrived to lose the 1997 and 1998 finals to the inferior Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid - are the third favourites. However, they have been left badly lacking a potent goal threat since losing Alessandro del Piero, their superb striker-playmaker, for the season through injury.

Bayern Munich, on the form book, have as much chance as Manchester United, having drawn both Group games with them, but are a bigger price. But Real Madrid, struggling in La Liga, are hard to fancy.

Kaiserslautern and Olympiakos, winners of the relatively weak Groups F and A, have the chance said acronym suggests. Marseilles, tipped at 20-1 with Ladbrokes in this neck of the woods at the start of the tournament, have dropped encouragingly to a top-priced 7-1 with Coral, but face a tough task

Radcliffe triumphs in the long run

ATHLETICS
BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

PAULA RADCLIFFE yesterday secured the first senior title of her career when she became European cross-country champion in Ferrara, Italy.

Radcliffe, who will be 25 on Thursday, was desperate to end her year on a high note after suffering demoralising defeat in the European Championship 10,000 metres final, where Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan was a runaway winner.

She did so with a characteristically determined race from gun to tape, which proved too strong for a field which included Portugal's Olympic 10,000m champion Fernanda Ribeiro and Finland's former European champion Annemarie Sandell.

"This was one I really needed to win," said Radcliffe after finishing in 18 min 07sec, three seconds clear of Sandell. "I knew I would be under great pressure, but I kept my nerve and obviously I'm now delighted."

With 800 metres left, the British runner was still being shadowed, a situation which she experienced at the last two world cross country championships.

This time, however, Radcliffe had the measure of the situation, accelerating one last time on the double hill near the finish.

Sandell, who won the European title three years ago at Altnwick, in Northumberland, while still a junior, had no final response but finished a second clear of Yugoslavia's Olivera Jevtic.

"Winning here means a lot to me," Radcliffe said. "It was a soft race and I needed the title. I've had a bad week, but I think it was because of nerves. I always planned to make my move on the double hill, and my plan worked out." Radcliffe's performance also answered a lingering question left over from her disappointing performance at the European Championships in Budapest, where she went from first to fifth in the last lap. That performance was blamed on a virus, and in going to Ferrara she wanted to assure herself her health was clear.

Yesterday's performance will send her in confidence to the world cross country championship in Belfast next March, where she will be hoping to be third time lucky.

Britain's junior men, led home by Sam Haigh, lost the team title to Spain by a margin of just two points.

EUROPEAN CUP

United	4-1	3-1	9-2	10-3	3-1
Interventus	9-2	7-2	7-2	4-1	7-2
Germany Munich	11-2	9-2	6-1	11-2	6-1
Real Madrid	4-1	6-1	5-1	5-1	6-1
Barcelona	8-1	12-1	9-1	10-1	8-1
Bayern Muen	12-1	14-1	12-1	12-1	14-1
Eintracht Frankfurt	22-1	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1

Foster in stunning display

MARK FOSTER was crowned the fastest swimmer in the world as he spearheaded a British gold rush at the European Short Course Championships in Sheffield yesterday. Foster broke the world 50 metres freestyle record twice in the space of just six hours to bank a £15,000 bonus.

James Hickman, who claimed the world 100m butterfly record in the morning heats, Adam Whitehead and Graeme Smith also struck gold as Britain ended the Championships with a record tally of seven first places and 21 medals overall.

However, it was Foster's performance which would have sent the fans scurrying to the telephones in a late attempt to get him named the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year.

Foster dethroned the swimming czar Alexander Popov in the heats as he reclaimed the record from the Russian after a four-year absence by 0.02sec with a time of 21.48sec. But the Bath-based 28-year-old had saved his best for the final as he obliterated the record with a stunning time of 21.15sec to see off the Dutchmen Mark Veens and Pieter van der Hoogenband.

"Watch this space," a delighted Foster, the Commonwealth champion, said afterwards. "My next target is to go under 21 seconds. I was pleased with my swim this

SWIMMING

BY IAN GORDON
in Sheffield

morning, but in my heart of hearts I knew that I could go faster in the final and that nobody was going to beat me. I was just really relaxed."

Foster had come close to the record in the freestyle relay yesterday when he also broke the world 50m butterfly mark but had to accept silver as Croatia's Milos Milosevic's blistering 23.30 earned him the £7,500 bonus.

Hickman, like Foster, had produced his best in the morning to add the 100m record to his 200m mark as he eclipsed the time of the Australian Michael Klim by 0.05 with 51.02sec.

The 22-year-old from Leeds was unable to repeat the feat in the final but he was always in control as he won in 51.04 to complete a Championship hat-trick following his 200m butterfly and 200m individual medley wins.

Hickman won £7,500 on offer from the organisers as he overcame the challenge of the world short course champion Lars Frolander, of Sweden (51.11), with Denis Silantiev, of the Ukraine, third in 51.87.

"There is a bit more pressure in the final than in the heats because you have got to win the race," Hickman said. "But I am still very pleased to have got the world record."



Austrian Hermann Maier powers his way to victory in a men's Super-G in Val d'Isere yesterday

Maier puts the failures behind him

SKIING

HERMANN MAIER, the Olympic champion, yesterday made up for past disappointments in Val d'Isere with an impressive win in a men's super-giant slalom.

The Austrian World Cup champion, who was disqualified from a giant slalom he had won here last year and who finished a distant 36th in Saturday's downhill, put the record straight with a commanding time of 1min 18.73sec.

The "Hermator", who came to the French resort after below-par performances in the United States last month, surged back for his second victory this season despite poor visibility. "It's a great satisfaction because my loss in Aspen to Stephan Eberharter was a hard one to swallow," Maier said. The Austrian was second to his compatriot in that first super-G of the season.

Eberharter was second this time on 1:19.91, but had some consolation by taking the lead in the World Cup overall standings with 366pts. Austria have now lost a men's super-G since February 1997 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

The Austrians were especially eager to do well yesterday as they had no finishers in the top 10 as erratic weather conditions favoured late starters. "I quickly forgot yesterday's downhill. The weather conditions were to blame and there was nothing to do," Maier said. "I think this season I have learnt to accept defeat." The 26-year-old was disqualified here last season for removing his skis in jubilation outside the per-

mitted area when he thought he had won the giant slalom.

Even though they did not manage a clean sweep of top placings as they did in Aspen, the Austrian team were back in form in the super-G, placing five men in the top 10. However, they had some competition from the Norwegians Lasse Kjus and Kjetil Andre Aamodt, who were third and fourth.

Kjus, who finished in 1:20.10, confirmed his victory in Saturday's downhill was not just down to luck. "I'm not at my peak yet, but this is satisfactory. I'm getting better and better," he said. Eberharter sounded more disappointed by his second place than pleased by his lead overall. "I made some mistakes here and you can't make mistakes when Hermann is on a good day," he said.

Meanwhile, three women Nordic skiers have failed to qualify for the World Cup races in northern Italy, the news agency ANSA reported.

It said the three, two Norwegians and a Ukrainian, were found to have higher-than-permitted levels of red blood cells in a test carried out on Saturday morning in Toblach. They did not compete in Saturday's five-kilometre cross-country event.

All three women were found to have haematocrit levels of above 16.5, the highest level permitted by the International Ski Federation. One of the Norwegians was later named as Maj Helen Sorkmo.

SPORTING DIGEST

ATHLETICS

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Third Test: All-too-familiar collapse points to a gulf in mental fortitude, rather than talent, between the two teams

England lacking strength of mind

CONDITIONS HAVE become depressingly normal again in Adelaide, and after the heat came the cold discomfort of an England batting collapse. Statistics can sometimes be misleading, but the loss of seven wickets in 64 minutes before lunch is one so damning that no amount of spin, particularly if it comes from a leggie, is going to be able to disguise it.

As at Perth the extra batsman has yet to prove his worth and this time it was an Australian turn, mainly from the wrist spinner Stuart MacGill, who took 4 for 53, that did the damage. Indeed, only Nasser Hussain, left unbeaten on 89, Mark Ramprakash, who scored a fluent 61, and Michael Atherton who made 41 on Saturday, got into double figures.

The rest were a sorry agglomeration of noughts and crosses (an indication of appalling shot selection) and further proof that county cricket is not much of a breeding ground when it comes to robust characters.

The tendency of England's batting to collapse is not new. The performances of the last five batsmen have been particularly dire and during the first Test in Brisbane, the final four wickets fell for 15 runs.

Perth was worse still with just 31 runs in the first innings and 2 in the second. Here they mustered 17 in their first innings, a collapse that once again left a batsman, in this case Hussain, stranded without support.

Reasons, if you accept that these particular players are not entirely hapless, are more difficult to pin down. When it comes the practice and physical preparation, Graham Gooch the kind of man who leaves to stone unturned, England's bowlers have diligently practised their batting on this tour.

Mind you, on evidence from the middle the only thing that has been proved is the converse of the usual adage: that practice makes perfect. The same can also be applied to their catching, which has been equally poor.

Perhaps that is the problem. Over-practice highlights the importance of the activity to the

By DEREK PRINGLE
in Adelaide

Australia 391 & 150-1
England 227

extent that failure becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. As far as catching goes, relaxed hands and alert minds are the key, something the quick-fire multiple catch sessions now in vogue do not encourage.

What is really lacking however - a flaw clearly illustrated by the manner in which England's batting collapses have happened - is mental fibre, an observation Gooch himself made as England captain after his team had lost to Australia at Old Trafford in 1993.

Once again, the system is at fault. County cricket, with its surfeit of matches - something that two divisions does nothing to redress - is tough, but only on the body.

As a consequence and because of the sheer volume of cricket played, the mind looks to take short cuts and players faced with an unpromising situation rarely waste either the time or energy trying to dig themselves out of it. They know another game, and with it another opportunity to do well, will be along soon.

In sport bad habits tend to be exploited and the higher you climb the more you are exposed. England's lower order, and most of its middle too, have been busy proving that with embarrassing regularity. Contrast this with the way Justin Langer and Michael Slater, the latter eschewing his normally dashing strokeplay, ground England out of the match. Australia are single-minded, England are absent-minded.

The most frustrating aspect, particularly after England had one or two dubious decisions the day before, was that Hussain and Ramprakash started the morning well.

Once dubbed the "Tantrum Twins" due to the uncontrollable fire in their bellies, the pair are rapidly becoming England's toughest competitors. They also appear well-equipped for Test cricket, with both their techniques and powers of con-

centration standing up well to the intensive scrutiny under which Australia's bowlers put them. In fact the hundred partnership they shared was about the only time in three days that England have looked on a par with their opponents.

Ramprakash, perhaps sensing that the ball would spin even more in the second innings, was friskier than usual and he twice clobbered Colin Miller's off spin for six. He was more circumspect against MacGill, who was turning it sharply, and not only out of the footholes.

Hussain was more watchful, though he expended just as much skill being so. His great strength is that when he gets a bad ball it is invariably put away, which is more important than it sounds against a miserly attack like Australia's. With Graham Thorpe having now gone home, Hussain has looked England's best batsman by some margin.

Ironically, on a day when the amount of spin being extracted by MacGill caused eyebrows to be raised, it was pace that brought the fatal breakthrough. Despite a back seat role, Glenn McGrath must never be underestimated and the extra bounce he got with the old ball when he banged one in at Ramprakash clearly surprised the batsman; a stylish two-hour stay was ended lamely as he guided the ball to Mark Waugh at second slip.

His tail up, McGrath soon added John Crawley to his tally, knocking back the batsman's off stump with a ball that had just a hint of reverse inswing to it.

Crawley, whose only boundary had seen England past the follow-on target, should not be blamed and had his form at home been as bad as it has out here, he would never have been picked. Once again his footwork was so out of kilter that you wonder whether the haymaker he got in Cairns damaged his middle ear as well as his confidence.

At 195 for 5, the stage was set for Graeme Hick to prove to his doubters that he is a Test player of substance. But if he began confidently, twice swatting MacGill to the midwicket fence for four, a beautifully pitched leg-break that took the edge ruined the illusion. Once again, when runs would have really counted, Hick failed to deliver.

After that England's tail, their mugsshots already flashed up on the giant screen along with their appalling record, came and went quietly, leaving Hussain to contemplate the futility of his own staunch efforts.

Speaking after the close of play, Hussain did not blame the tail, a public gesture that was probably far more charitable than his private thoughts at the time.

"We played the extra batsmen here, so it is up to the top seven to score the runs. You can't blame the tail, we've got to take the responsibility. Ramps and I had a good hour and then we had a bad hour. If we had the answer as to why that was, it wouldn't be happening."



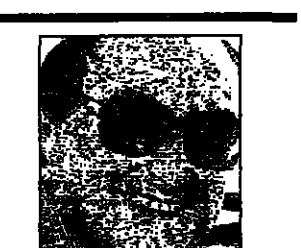
Glenn McGrath celebrates as England's Mark Ramprakash walks off after being dismissed by the Australian paceman on Saturday Allsport

Umpire's inexperience exposed

PROBLEMS ARE coming thick and fast for the International Cricket Council at Lord's. Although not perhaps quite on the same level as the Richter Scale of these things as the obituary of the Indian book-making fraternity, Mark Taylor's "catch" of Mike Atherton on Saturday has shown that third umpires need to have reached a certain level of experience.

Mr Paul Angle, who is doing the job in Adelaide, has only stood in three first-class matches and his inexperience showed when this decision was referred to him. He was much too quick on the draw, making his mind up after seeing only two replays of the incident.

There were at least six available and the more one watched them, the more certain one became that it was impossible to decide whether or not it was a clean catch. An older hand would have waited to see what else the cameras had to offer



HENRY BLOFELD IN ADELAIDE

and would probably have had another look at the slow-motion replays.

Mr Angle may have felt himself pressured to make a decision as quickly as he could. But to have done it so fast on such slender evidence must have involved guesswork which has been a feature of a few decisions made in the middle in this match.

Of course, the Australians

are crying "Whingeing Poms". The Aussies know what it feels like though, for at Old Trafford in 1997 Greg Blewett was given out caught at slip by Nasser Hussain and the replays then showed that the ball had bounced first.

In those far off days, the laws did not allow third umpires to adjudicate on catches. Had they been able to, Blewett would have been given the benefit of the doubt, just as Atherton should have on Saturday, although Taylor's "catch" was less clear-cut on the replays than Hussain's.

There is a view that this incident was a reflection of Australian skulduggery and that Taylor was not blameless. I do not hold with this for Australia's captain is not a cheat. He claimed the catch initially and said later to Ian Chappell that he thought he had got his fingers under the ball. There are occasions when fielders genuinely do not know and it was

now left to the cameras, whose evidence was inconclusive.

This argument continues that it was this incident which was responsible for England's pathetic batting on the third morning. This, of course, is bunkum as a look at England's batting in this calendar year alone will show, when collapse has followed collapse.

This particular one of 7 for 40 fits in third place behind the 7 for 26 in Antigua in March and the 6 for 11 against South Africa at Lord's in June.

When Ramprakash was out in the morning, it looked as if England really would reap the advantage of playing seven batsmen. Crawley came in before Hick, which was a surprise, and after a lovely back-foot drive, he left a gap between bat and pad when defending against Glenn McGrath. Soon afterwards Hick failed to get to the pitch of a leg break when driving.

Between them they had amassed 13 runs and had been

swept away in double quick time just when England needed a major contribution. Once again, two batsmen, whose temperaments has always in doubt at this level, have again caved in when the pressure was extreme. Patience may soon run out.

The tail was, as always, ghastly and was summed up by Alan Mullally. Just before the first Test, he and Robert Croft had put on 36 for the last wicket to enable England to beat Queensland, and afterwards Mullally had spoken about the importance of tail-enders playing their part with the bat. How he must wish he had kept his mouth shut.

He came in now to face his fourth successive duck in this series and never for a single moment suggested that he would not achieve it. Dean Headley and Peter Such both found that their first balls were altogether far too straight for their well-being. If it had not been so sad, one would have laughed.

W Indies suffer as fever hits Wallace Fog thwarts Pakistan

THE BELEAGUERED West Indies, 2-0 down in the series against South Africa after a 178-run second Test defeat, suffered a new blow yesterday when their opening batsman Philo Wallace was diagnosed with glandular fever.

"Philo has a bout of glandular fever and we will be keeping a close eye on him over the next few days," the West Indies team manager, Clive Lloyd, said.

But Lloyd said he was not considering calling for a replacement at this stage as Wallace could recover in time to play in the third Test, which starts at Kingsmead in Durban on 26 December. Wallace did not play in the second Test at St

By LAWRENCE PRESCOTT
at Port Elizabeth

South Africa 245 & 195
West Indies 121 & 141
South Africa won by 178 runs

George's Park, which South Africa won on Saturday with more than two days to spare, because of a high temperature. Medical tests conducted yesterday confirmed the opening batsman had glandular fever.

Wallace's illness is the latest blow to a tour which began late after a pay and working conditions dispute between the players and the West Indies Cricket Board threatened to force its cancellation. No sooner had

that problem been solved than the middle-order batsman Jimmy Adams and leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine returned home with injuries.

Seven games into the tour, which includes five Tests, the West Indies have yet to register a victory, and their captain, Brian Lara, is urging his West Indian team to put in more effort following their defeat inside three days.

Lara said that while he was disappointed, he had to praise the front-line bowlers, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh who, he said, had probably produced their best performances for five years in Port Elizabeth. "But the chaps have got to

realise that they are all wearing the West Indian badge on their caps," he added. "One doesn't mind if you are beaten by the better team and South Africa are the better team at this present time, but they are not taking five days to beat us. They are taking two and a half days, so we are going to have to start looking at these things."

South Africa on Saturday announced an unchanged squad of 12 for their third Test in Durban over Christmas.

(Third day: West Indies won 105)
SOUTH AFRICA - First innings 245 (C Walters 4-87).
WEST INDIES - First innings 121 (S Pollock 5-43, D Tredwell 3-77).
SOUTH AFRICA - Second innings (Overnight: 143 for 5).
J Rhodes b Ambrose 42, S Pollock b Dillon b Ambrose 42, M Boucher c Hooper b Ambrose 1.

P Symcox c Lambert b Ambrose 16, A Donald b Walsh 11, D Tredwell not out 3, Extras (6) 105 (nb5).
Total (62.5 overs) 195.
Fall: 6-145 7-151 8-173 9-183.
Bowling: Ambrose 19-4-51-5; Walters 23-5-56-3; Dillon 9-2-36-0; Hooper 7-0-35-0; McLennan 5-0-19-0.
WEST INDIES - Second innings
C Lambert c Boucher b Donald 22, S Chandrasekar c Kallis b Pollock 16, R Jacobs low b Kallis 22, C Hooper run out 28, B Lara c Kirsten b Donald 39, F Reifer c Gullian b Donald 9, N McLennan run out 1, S Williams low b Donald 8, C Ambrose c Pollock b Donald 16, M Dillon b Pollock 9, C Walsh not out 10.
Extras (nb2 nb5) 11.
Total 141.
Fall: 3-240 3-54 4-57 5-68 6-69 7-77 8-132 9-141.
Bowling: Donald 14-2-49-5; Pollock 13-1-46-2 (nb7); Kallis 6-2-17-1 (nb2); Tredwell 5-1-27-0.
Umpires: R Koertzen (SA) and D R Shepherd (Eng).
First Test (Johannesburg): South Africa won by four wickets, Third Test (Durban, Dec 26-30), Fourth Test (Cape Town, Jan 2-6), Fifth Test (Centurion Park, Jan 15-19).

A MAGNIFICENT maiden century by Yousaf Yohanna helped Pakistan gain a 143-run lead in the second Test against Zimbabwe in Lahore yesterday, but bad weather foiled the hosts' bid for victory. Instead, Zimbabwe made 48 without loss in their second innings to raise their hopes of a draw.

Heavy fog and overcast conditions marred the Test, with only 45 overs bowled on the fourth day.

Zimbabwe, leading the series 1-0 following their seven-wicket win in the first Test at Peshawar, will be content if the weather remains the same with only one Test remaining, in Faisalabad on 17 December.

Pakistan 325-9 dec
Zimbabwe 183 & 48-0

Gavin Rennie and Grant Flower survived hostile but erratic bowling from Wasim Akram and Shoaib Akhtar, with Waqar Younis not bowing in the second innings because of illness.

Pakistan, resuming at 211 for 5, declared their first innings closed at 325 for 9, with Yousaf hitting an unbeaten 120. He put on 60 invaluable runs for the ninth wicket with Shoaib and 50 in 48 minutes for the 10th wicket with Waqar, who made 24.

"I was told to stay at the wicket and that I did," Yousaf said. "After Salim Malik's run-out on my call the onus was on me."

(Fourth day of five, Pakistan won toss)
Zimbabwe - First innings 183 (A Flower 60no, Saqlain Mustaq 5-35, Waqar Younis 4-54).
Pakistan - First innings (Overnight: 211 for 5).
Saeed Anwar c A Flower b Johnson 75, Naved Ashraf b Saeed 33, Ijaz Ahmad c Huckle b Johnson 16, Salim Malik run out 120, Yousaf Yohanna not out 120, Hassan Raza c Rennie b Huckle 2, Moin Khan low b Huckle 25, Nasim Akram c Johnson b Chinga 24, Shoaib Akhtar c Johnson b Chinga 24, Shoaib Akhtar b Huckle 11, Waqar Younis not out 24, Extras (nb10 nb5) 15.
Total (for 9 dec) 325.
Fall: 1-69 2-121 3-129 4-132 5-147 6-213 7-215 8-215 9-275.
Bowling: Saeed 33-8-75-1; Chinga 25-9-53-9 (nb1); Mungwa 24-4-56-0; Johnson 24-2-71-2 (nb6); Huckle 7-0-40-2.
Zimbabwe - Second innings
G Rennie not out 16, G W Flower not out 17, Extras (nb-5 nb-10) 15.
Total (for no wicket) 48.
Bowling: Wasim Akram 6-0-23-0 (7nb); Shoaib Akhtar 5-1-15-0 (3nb); Saqlain Mustaq 1-0-5-0.

Kerly confirms Canterbury's quality

SEAN KERLY, with a 63rd-minute goal, capped another fine Canterbury display as they beat Brooklands 7-0 yesterday to go into the mid-season break two points ahead of Cannock at the top of the Premier Division. Stuart Humphries, who opened the scoring in the second minute, went on to complete his hat-trick, with David Mathews, Danny Legett and Mark Hollingsworth completing the scoring.

Bobby Crutchley returned to something like his old form

HOCKEY
By BILL COLWILL

with four goals in Cannock's 6-0 win against Bourneville. Justin Pidcock and Chris Mayer were the other scorers. Third-placed Southgate scrambled home 3-2 against lowly Teddington with goals from Calum Giles, Duncan Woods and Paul Livesey. Teddington replied through their captain, Brett Garrard, and Jon Hauck.

Beeston, who moved into fourth place on Saturday after their 1-0 victory over Reading, held on to their position following yesterday's 1-1 draw at East Grinstead, where their Scottish Under-21 international James McBlane was dismissed for dissent. Craig Keegan had given the visitors the lead just before the interval, with Ben Payne responding eight minutes into the second-half.

Reading got the better of Guildford with a 5-1 win, taking

advantage of a hesitant Guildford defence and an out-of-touch Ian Jennings, who only managed one penalty corner success from seven efforts. Scott Ashdown scored after 48 seconds with an unstoppable reverse-stick shot, after Kevin Friday had saved well from the New Zealand centre-forward Ken Robinson, who made his first Reading appearance on Saturday. Jennings equalised for Guildford, but Reading dominated the exchanges after that.

Late points rush flatters Leicester

IT SOUNDS close, but even die-hard Leicester City Riders fans who watched the 88-86 Budweiser League defeat against London Towers on Saturday night know their scoreline flatters their players.

Riders scored the last eight points inside the final 30 seconds. JaRon Boone and Gene Waldron, typically, hit three-pointers too late to have any effect, when the Towers defence allowed Billy Singleton an uncontested lay-up as the game ended.

BASKETBALL
By RICHARD TAYLOR

Last season the Towers failed to win a title for the first time in three years and sacked their coach, Kevin Cadle, but under the Italian Lino Fratini, they are finding it just as hard to reclaim the higher ground.

Out of the Cup and only sixth in the league, the play-offs and League trophy offer their only hope of silverware. "This sums

up our season," the general manager, Rick Taylor, said, after watching his inconsistent squad almost squander a 14-point lead before winning the game.

A virtually immaculate first half from Danny Lewis, who scored four out of five three-pointers and all six free-throws, built a 48-34 half-time lead. Then London stopped playing as their former team-mate Karl Brown inspired a 24-10 Riders' run to tie at 58-58.

But Riders' offense lost its

fluency, leaving Drew Barrett and Marc Hawley to waste possession at the top of the key and Lewis to profit by setting up the match winning 12-2 run.

Edinburgh Rocks won their second League game of the season on Ted Berry's shot on the buzzer for a 73-72 win over Chester Jets.

Derby Storm severely dented Manchester Giants' progress to the League trophy quarter-finals by beating them 100-79 in a group game.

Ronaldo comes to rescue of Lucescu

AN 89TH-minute winner yesterday by Ronaldo - only his fourth league goal of the season - gave the Romanian Mircea Lucescu his first Serie A victory since he took over from Luigi Simoni as coach of Internazionale at the start of the month. The 1-0 win at Udinese put Inter back in the title hunt.

The Brazilian moved on to a pass from Roberto Baggio following a scramble in the Udinese penalty area and stroked a left-foot shot past goalkeeper Luigi Turci from close range. Lucescu made two tactical substitutions in the game, throwing on the Nigerian Tari West for Fabio Galante and adding Baggio to his front line. West had been dropped after he threw his shirt at Lucescu in disgust last weekend when he was substituted in the first half of Inter's unconvincing 1-1 draw with Salernitana. Yesterday Inter managed to put their differences behind them as they recorded their sixth league victory of the season.

George Weah also hit a late winner to give 10-man Milan a 1-0 win over Vicenza, the Liberians sliding in a cross from Oliver Bierhoff after 86 minutes after having had midfielder Massimo Ambrosini sent off for diving in the penalty area - his second bookable offence.

Roma and Parma were tied on 23 points following their 1-1 draw in a game pitting the tightest defence in the Italian top flight against its most prolific attack. Parma had conceded just five goals before Sunday while Roma had scored 26. The Argentinian Hernan Crespo gave Parma a first-half lead after Roma keeper Antonio Chimenti had parried a shot from Enrico Chiesa in the 39th minute.

Roma's arch rivals Lazio hammered Sampdoria 5-2 at the Olympic stadium thanks in part to a hat-trick of free-kicks from Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic. Mihajlovic's compatriot Dejan Stankovic grabbed Lazio's fourth and Marcello Salas added a fifth in injury time to take the Italian Cup holders into sixth place.

A last-gasp goal by Egyptian

OVERSEAS ROUND-UP

BY GIDEON LONG

defender Hani Ramzy gave Kaiserslautern a 2-1 victory over relegation-threatened Eintracht Frankfurt and lifted them into third place in the Bundesliga. Michael Ballack had put the German champions ahead after four minutes, but Damir Stojak equalised for Frankfurt in the 74th minute.

Elsewhere, Hansa Rostock broke their nine-game winless streak by beating a depleted VfL Bochum 3-0, thanks to a pair of goals by Swiss-born Oliver Neuville in the 21st and 86th minutes.

Denison's appalling run of luck continued when the Brazilian missed a penalty 12 minutes into Real Betis's match against visiting Atletico Madrid on Saturday as their Spanish League encounter ended in a 0-0 draw.

Denison has yet to score this season and was starting for Betis for the first time in three weeks after last month being relegated to the substitutes' bench by his coach, Javier Clemente. The goalless draw meant that Clemente's flawless home record came to an end.

Positions at the top of the French championship remained the same as Girondins Bordeaux and Olympique Marseilles, separated only by goal difference, both won by 3-0 scores. The France striker Lilian Laslandes scored twice, taking his league tally to eight, as pacesetters Bordeaux strove to victory over Le Havre.

Marseilles beat Metz, down to 10 men from the 42nd minute when the striker Bruno Rodriguez was sent off for dissent, having already been booked for a similar offence.

The Dutch champions, Ajax, have removed their coach, Morten Olsen, and replaced him with the second-team coach, Jan Wouters. The Danish coach had come under increasing pressure following the club's dismal performance in the Champions' League and poor results in the domestic league.



Fans vent their opposition to the Portsmouth chairman, Mike Gregory, during their side's 1-0 home defeat to Grimsby yesterday

Alisport

Ball confronts angry supporters

THE PORTSMOUTH manager, Alan Ball, broke up a pitch demonstration of around 500 fans after the First Division side's defeat by Grimsby at Fratton Park yesterday.

Speaking from a microphone in the directors' box, Ball to persuade the fans to go home after Pompey's 1-0 defeat. Supporters also staged a sit-down protest at half-time against the Pompey chairman, Martin Gregory, after the first-team squad was put up for sale to meet huge debts.

Ball told the fans: "Everyone knows how you feel and we sympathise. Your support has been fantastic and we realise just what this club means to you. But rest assured no one is going anywhere and we shall try to get our way out of trouble on and off the pitch."

The victorious Grimsby

NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

manager, Alan Buckley, who saw Paul Groves head the only goal of the game, sympathised with the home side. "Of course I feel sorry for Alan and I know what I would do in his situation, but it is not for me to tell a great manager and a great player what he should do," he said.

Birmingham took revenge for a home defeat earlier in the season when they thrashed Oxford at the Manor Ground. The 7-1 manning left the Oxford manager, Malcolm Shotton, devastated. "Every time Birmingham went forward they looked like scoring," he said.

Sunderland increased their lead at the top of the table to seven points following the 2-0 defeat of Port Vale at the Stadium of Light, but their man-

ager, Peter Reid, was more satisfied with the performance of Alex Rae. The Scottish midfielder returned to the side after personal problems which included a spell at the Marchwood Priory clinic in Hampshire, where Paul Gascoigne was recently admitted.

"Alex's response was top class," Reid said. "I thought his passing was exceptional and he knocked a lot of balls around the field that got us going forward, as well as winning the ball back for us."

The Stockport manager, Gary Megson, is tipping Watford to catch up with second-placed Ipswich at the top after his side lost 4-2 to the Hornets.

"They are the best team we have played," Megson said. "Personally, from what I've seen, I would put them on a par with Sunderland."

Bradford came from behind to inflict a 4-1 defeat at Swindon at the County Ground. But Lee Mills, who scored twice, was sent off for a second bookable offence after kicking the ball away.

"He knows it is very silly but having been booked already the referee had no option but to send him off," the Bradford manager, Paul Jewell, said.

The Wolves defender Kevin Muscat was fortunate to stay on the field after a horrific tackle on Norwich's Craig Bellamy in the 2-2 draw at Molineux. Bellamy was taken off on a stretcher to receive nine stitches in his knee while Muscat played on without even conceding a free-kick for the incident.

"I want my players to be competitive but I certainly don't want them kicking people and there were instances which got a little bit out of hand today,

I must admit," the Wolves manager, Colin Lee, said.

The Queen's Park Rangers manager, Gerry Francis, was furious after his side failed to capitalise on a glorious chance to move up the table by losing 1-0 at home to bottom-placed Crewe. "I think that first 45 minutes today was the worst since I took over," Francis complained.

Tranmere earned a late reprieve when their captain, Kenny Irons, scored a point in the last minute against Bolton at Prenton Park.

Ade Alkinbiyi took just a minute to equalise for Bristol City after a Mickey Bell own-goal appeared to have set Crystal Palace on their way to a first win in five games.

A James Quinn brace, along with Lee Hughes' 24th of the season, saw Huddersfield lose 3-0 at home to West Bromwich.

Turner is the prize for Barnsley

BY PETER CONCHIE

Ipswich Town 0
Barnsley 2

WERE A graph to be plotted of the comparative fortunes of Ipswich Town and Barnsley since this time last season it would describe two divergent paths. However, as Saturday's result indicated, those respective upward and downward curves may yet converge. Barnsley's stock is rising, but is Ipswich's about to plummet?

Recent history would suggest not. At the half-way stage last year Ipswich also lost at home, to Birmingham City. They went on to lose only once in their remaining 23 games. Barnsley, meanwhile, are doing their bit to undermine the foundations of the First Division with three wins and a draw against its top four teams in the last three weeks.

The story of the afternoon was the dramatic debut of Barnsley substitute Michael Turner who, until two weeks ago, played for Bilston Town in the Midlands Division of the Football League. On Saturday he effectively won the match, setting up the first goal and scoring the second. Young Turner appears to be a promising player with pace, strength and a directness of approach. More unusually he also has a degree from Liverpool University. Before his fast-track promotion to the first team Barnsley's manager, John Hendrie, revealed that he had received a letter from his new recruit asking to be excused from Monday night's Pontifex League reserve team game against Sheffield Wednesday. This was to enable him to attend his graduation ceremony.

Hendrie spoke level-headedly of his newest recruit. "He has played in the reserves for us and did well and I was tempted to get him involved last week at Watford," Hendrie noted.

"He's a strong boy, he's quick and he's a bright lad, but we're not getting carried away. He's only played 30 minutes of League football."

It was an odd sort of game in that most of the excitement came in the goalless half. In a first period which featured all five bookings Ipswich came closest when Tony Mowbray headed fellow defender Mark Venus's free-kick against a post while Barnsley might have scored when Matt Holland cleared off the line.

Ipswich's day started to sour after a second-half injury to striker Jamie Scowcroft. His ward for a brave attempt to reach a hoofed clearance was a broken collar-bone following a fierce collision with goalkeeper Tony Bullock. The impact of his replacement Richard Naylor was minimal in comparison to that of Barnsley's Turner, who came on for the ineffective Dean Burton. His impact was swift and introduced some much needed wits to the game as, within five minutes, he skipped over a challenge from Manuel Theis and pulled back a ball from the by-line which Sean McClure tucked away. An exceptional 25 minutes' work was rounded off with a close-range shot from Darren Barnard almost on the whistle.

The Ipswich manager, George Burley, was realistic about his team's prospects regarding injuries to the likes of Scowcroft and Jason Cundy, and the impact of the sale of Alex Mathie to Dundee United and Mauricio Taricco to Spurs. "We're depleted, it's going to be a difficult month and we're going to have to dig deep but certainly I would have been pleased at the start of the season if you'd given us second place at the moment."

Motherwell continued to be inspired by the form of John Spencer, who has set Fir Park alight since his arrival from Everton. He scored Motherwell's goal and his overall performance made it clear to see why the Scottish club are keen to extend his stay.

Helmer's fee halts Houllier

LIVERPOOLS ATTEMPTS

to sign the German centre-back Thomas Helmer have stalled after Bayern Munich demanded a transfer fee for the 33-year-old defender. The Anfield manager, Gerard Houllier, had hoped to acquire Helmer on a free transfer after talking to his agents in Manchester last week. However, Bayern now say that they want compensation, possibly as much as £1m and Liverpool will not pay for a player of his age.

Helmer has confirmed that he is in negotiations with the Merseysiders and awaits a conclusion to the talks, but the answer will be no unless the fee drops. Liverpool, meanwhile, are bringing in the Cameroon defender, Rigobert Song, on trial this week. They have been granted a visa for him. Song, out of favour at Salernitana, cannot play in public games because he needs a work permit but could join in training and practice matches behind closed doors.

Harry Redknapp has strongly rejected suggestions that Rio Ferdinand is on his way out of West Ham in a multi-million pound deal. The England international had been linked with a move to Manchester United or Liverpool, but the Hammers manager insists he is trying to build a team - not dis-

BY ALAN NIXON

mantle it. "Why should we sell our best players?" Redknapp said. "We are a Premier League club and we get tremendous support. Are we just a selling club? I don't think so. The chairman and the board don't want to sell. I'm sure of that. And I certainly don't want to sell my best players."

The Borussia Dortmund goalkeeper Stefan Klos has indicated he will not be moving

Merson waiting for verdict on back injury

THE ASTON VILLA player Paul Merson has admitted that he may need an injection similar to the kind Tony Adams had recently if there is no improvement to his back complaint. Any such treatment could keep him out for another two months.

Merson, a key figure in Villa's Premiership title challenge since his £8.75m signing from Middlesbrough in September, has already been out for a fortnight with the injury and last week received a second opinion by John Webb, a leading authority on back injuries.

to Rangers. The Bundesliga club say Klos would be allowed to leave during the winter break if they could find a replacement, but efforts to bring in Milan's Jens Lehmann appear to have foundered over the transfer fee.

Klos was expected at Ibrox early this week after saying the Scottish Premier League leaders were his first choice. However, he now appears to have had a change of heart and looks likely to see out the remaining months of his contract.

Now Merson is facing an anxious wait of just over a week to determine whether or not the injection will be needed if he is to return to full fitness. Merson, who first encountered the problem while on England duty in October, said: "I shall go back to see the specialist in about a week's time and he will tell me more then."

"It is very frustrating for me with Aston Villa currently going for the title. That's the one thing I really want to win this season."

which expires on 30 June, in Germany. He said: "It makes no sense for me to come to Scotland and talk to Rangers at the moment. The club have not found a replacement for me and it looks as though I might have to see out my contract at Dortmund."

The Premier League has defended its decision to offer Arsenal help in finding a new shirt sponsor. The Double winners are seeking a backer to replace JVC at the end of the season, and the Premier League's commercial director, Stephen Pearson, is bidding to negotiate any deal in return for a fee. The League insists any payment would be far less than a fee charged by an agent.

Mike Lee, a League spokesman, said: "If the Premier League's commercial department were to help Arsenal, and obviously that's a matter for Arsenal to judge, then in recognition of his time and effort there would be some sort of payment made into the Premier League central fund."

An Arsenal spokeswoman said: "I can confirm that the club has been approached by the Premier League together with many other agents to assist the club in finding a new sponsor. At present, no decision has been made on who the club will use."

DR VENGLOS has been around Scottish football long enough to know better. His comments following the 1-1 draw with Dundee United are unlikely to go down well with Celtic supporters who have watched aghast as the feel-good factor of last season's championship victory has been dismantled.

Before Christmas has arrived, Celtic trail Rangers by seven points and that is expected to become 10 when Rangers play their extra game, yet the doctor, who is used to more competitive leagues, remains confident Celtic can retain their title.

"I will always believe my side is capable of catching anyone," he said, "but we must learn to take one game at a time. It's far too soon to speak about what may or may not happen at the end of the season. There is enough spirit in the squad to maintain a real challenge."

The coach's optimism glosses over the fact that Celtic have won just once away from home and on Saturday they had to come from behind to earn their point. More crucially perhaps, the doctor has not yet grasped

SCOTTISH ROUND-UP

BY DAVID MCKINNEY

the unique duopoly that is the Scottish league. Celtic versus Rangers, Rangers versus Celtic, whichever way you call it, the Glasgow clubs are misplaced giants in a land of pygmies. While their home games attract more than 50,000 supporters, the other clubs have to survive on gates of around 10,000.

The rest can challenge, and indeed they raise their game whenever they play the old firm, but more than 100 years of history have shown that Rangers and Celtic will win the huge majority of the games they play and a 10-point gap between the two can be a yawning chasm.

The Celtic supporters, meanwhile, are yet to be convinced things can improve and while they have been hampered by injury, they do not have any real spark about their play, with the exception of Henrik Larsson, the Swede who has shown fine form this season and scored the equaliser on Saturday.

"It was not a top class performance against Dundee United but frankly I cannot criticise the players. They at least had the character to come from behind to earn a point," Venglos said.

Celtic might have made their point but Rangers were collecting three with a 1-0 victory over Kilmarnock at Ibrox to put them three points ahead of the Ayrshire club. This was a Rangers side below its best form, but, importantly, they managed a victory.

Aberdeen, who are thought to have targeted Jim Jefferies, the Hearts manager as a replacement for Alex Miller, defeated the Edinburgh side 2-0 to take them off the bottom of the division. That dubious honour has fallen to Dunfermline, who managed a 1-1 draw with Motherwell with 10 men.

Motherwell continued to be inspired by the form of John Spencer, who has set Fir Park alight since his arrival from Everton. He scored Motherwell's goal and his overall performance made it clear to see why the Scottish club are keen to extend his stay.

SATURDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.

Draw date: 12/12/98. The winning numbers: 26, 28, 38, 39, 41, 46. Bonus number: 25.
Total Sales: £55,606,315. Prize Fund: £25,022,842 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	1	£9,110,738	£9,110,738
Match 5 plus bonus ball	14	£200,236	£2,803,304
Match 5	476	£3,680	£1,751,680
Match 4	33,907	£113	£3,831,491
Match 3	750,219	£10	£7,502,190
TOTALS	784,617		£24,999,403

Total Sales including Instant and Wednesday Draw £96,420,500.
Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £25,000,000.

Maybe, just maybe... THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy, in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer systems shall prevail.



TOMORROW

FROM THE TURMOIL OF TURIN TO THE PASSION OF PRIDE PARK...
IAN STAFFORD TALKS TO THE
DERBY COUNTY DEFENDER TONY DORIGO

TEAM	PTS	GOALS
Sunderland	49	5
Ipswich	42	3
Watford	40	3
Birmingham	38	3
Sheff City	37	4
Norwich	37	3
Bolton	36	3
Huddersfield	35	3
Grimsby	35	3
West Brom	34	3
Sheff Utd	34	3
Wolves	34	3
Barnsley	34	3
Crystal Palace	30	3
Bury	29	3
Sheff Port	28	3
QPR	26	3
Preston	25	3
Swindon	24	3
Tranmere	24	3
Oxford	24	3
Port Vale	23	3
Bristol City	23	3
Crewe	23	3

150 من الاموال

PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

FIRST DIVISION: Luton v Colchester (2.0)
(at Kenilworth Road).

Triple switch proves Smith's point

A WILLY OLD fox in Rams' clothing endorsed Chelsea's championship credentials ahead of the first half of their December double-header with Manchester United, although events at Pride Park also revived doubts about the viability of Gianluca Vialli's squad-rotation system.

Derby's Jim Smith, who first donned the player-manager's mantle at Boston United some three decades before Vialli, did not allow his side's late equaliser to tarnish a positive impression of the resilience the Italian has instilled during 10 months in charge at Stamford Bridge.

Smith's view is that the title tends to go not to the most tal-

BY PHIL SHAW

Derby County 2
Chelsea 2

ented or exciting team, but to the one who make themselves hardest to beat. Chelsea's run of 15 unbeaten Premiership games since the first-day flop at Coventry - contrasting neatly with 15 League defeats last season - has convinced him that their soft underbelly is now a tight six-pack.

"They are very serious contenders," said Smith. "I think it will go to the wire between Chelsea, United, Arsenal and Aston Villa. Arsenal have that ability to dig in and get results,

and Villa have added players since they beat us.

"The difference with Chelsea is that they are so good going forward, a bit like United. We felt that we could cause them problems if we got enough balls into their box, but it's not that easy because you can't get the ball off them."

Derby, however, managed to fulfil their manager's brief in stoppage time. The first triple substitution of his career paid off when one replacement, Kevin Harper, crossed for another, Dean Sturridge, to equalise and negate Chelsea's second-half ascendancy.

The switches made by Smith were born of necessity, if not

desperation. Vialli, like Rudi Voller before him, routinely tinkers with his line-up simply to keep players fresh, and indeed made six changes to the side who had overcome Villa three days earlier. Hindsight may show it to be a case of cutting off your nose to spite your face.

Ture Andre Flo, for instance, is by no means certain to start at Old Trafford on Wednesday. Vialli's track record suggests he may pair himself with Gianfranco Zola and bring the Norwegian off the bench. After Flo's classic demonstration of centre-forward play against Derby, including a goal which combined deftness and bravery, such a decision would be music

to the ears of Jaap Stam and company.

Two players who will almost certainly return are Marcel Desailly and Albert Ferrer, in place of Michael Duberry and Bernard Lambourde, respectively. Ensuring that your first-choice centre-backs are in the right condition to face Messrs Yorke and Cole is all very well, but it could be argued that their absence needlessly exposed Chelsea at the critical moment.

For all the importance of squad depth to cover for injuries and suspensions, history shows that the champions field their strongest XI whenever possible. Villa, to quote an admittedly freakish precedent, used only 14

players in 1980-81. Liverpool regularly took the premier prize under Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley with a team in which nine or 10 men were fixtures.

Chelsea have already used 21 players, one more than in the entire 42-match programme in 1954-55, their only championship campaign. Having said that, Jody Morris made a strong case for retention ahead of Roberto Di Matteo with a first starting appearance full of industry and invention. His exquisite pass set up Flo's riposte to Horacio Carbonari's opener, and Gustavo Poyet's drive promptly put the visitors within reach of the summit.

That they were unable to plant the blue flag there for the first time in nine years was a tribute to Derby's own collective resolve - which should ensure that they finish closer to the European places than to the danger zone - and to an inspired example of team rotation by Vialli's veteran adversary. Goals: Carbonari (26) 1-0; Flo (54) 1-1; Poyet (58) 1-2; Sturridge (90) 2-2. Derby County (5-2-1): Poyet, Pires, Carbonari (Sturridge, 78), Larsson, Delap, Robinson (Schroder, 78), Powell, Eranio, Dorigo, Salino (Harper, 78), Wanchopp. Substitutes not used: Elliott, Hovitz (81), Morris (Baboyaro, 88), Poyet, Wise, Le Saout, Flo, Zola (Nicholls, 88), Salinas. Second-half subs: Di Matteo, Hitchcock (84). Referee: P. Jones (Loughborough). Bookings: Derby: Powell, Carbonari, Wanchopp, Chelsea: Flo. Man of the match: Flo. Attendance: 29,056.

Cleland lifts Everton blues

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Everton 1
Southampton 0

THESE ARE not exactly exciting times at Everton, but just possibly they are times for a certain grim satisfaction.

There was a moment towards the end of this generally turgid affair when the complete lack of atmosphere at Goodison gave way to the quiet knowledge that, whatever their many failings, the Blues were drawing level on points with the team across Stanley Park and that, just for the present, they are not the Merseyside club in the more obvious crisis.

It might say more about the general standard of the Premiership than it does about Everton that they have now taken 10 points from the last 12 on offer, but those are the bald figures.

No one, least of all Everton's largely inaudible manager Walter Smith, is yet whispering - let alone shouting - anything from the rooftops. Nor should they. Everton won this match by virtue of two missed open goals by the Premiership's most toothless attack coupled with an uncharacteristically clinical piece of finishing from Ibrahim Bakayoko - scoring his first Premiership goal in his ninth League game.

Bakayoko showed a new confidence once he had scored, but a contribution of potentially equal significance came from Alex Cleland.

Smith's recruit from his old squad at Rangers has had a limited impact at Everton and has been largely confined to duties as a substitute for much of the last two months. But against Southampton he was one of their notable successes in the right wing-back role and his constructive forays were responsible for much of the opportunity Bakayoko found to run at the defence.

He hit the bar with an effort of his own, and his neat and tidy work in what is truth be told a technically woeful match, was enough to make ensure that he stood out.

It could not be argued seriously that other departments of the side are in as good order. Smith left out Marco Materazzi for reasons about which he was enigmatic, but which revolved around a training ground argument, and gave Slaven Bilic his first appearance of the season in the back three.

But that defence presented open invitations to score to Hassan Kachoul and Mark Hughes before either side had found even a faltering rhythm.

The Moroccan midfielder had an unhappy afternoon. Apart from squandering his sister it was his mistake that let in Bakayoko, and he was also booked for an extravagant dive in the penalty area.

According to his manager, David Jones, he cannot put a foot wrong in training, or in the reserves. It is upon these consolations that doomed campaigns are built.

Goals: Bakayoko (31) 1-0. Everton (3-5-2): Myhre, Dunne, Blic, Swenson, Cleland, Grant (Barney, 86), Hutchinson, Collins, Ball, Bakayoko, Kachoul (Duncan, 75). Substitutes not used: Branch, Ward, Gerrard (81). Southampton (4-2-1-2): Jones, Dodd, Monk, Luttrell, Hiley, Oakley, Hughes, Kachoul (Riley, 81), Le Tissier, Beattie (Bradley, 87). Second-half subs not used: Stensgaard (81), Bridge, Dryden. Referee: A. Milne (Co Durham). Bookings: Ball, Swenson, Kachoul, Hughes. Man of the match: Cleland. Attendance: 32,073.

Role of No1 fits Kidd just fine

AS NEWS reached Ewood Park of goals rolling in and the Reds seeing red at White Hart Lane, the thought occurred to many in the press box that we were in the wrong place. Far below us a man with more reason to be in the capital with Manchester United than any had no doubts.

Brian Kidd's formative managerial influence may be Alex Ferguson but he looked more like Barry Fry in Saturday's goalless draw as he prowled his coaching box exhorting and directing his players on everything from positional discipline to body shape. At times he was almost on the pitch and had Rovers managed a goal we may even have seen a Fry-style jig of delight. For a man previously thought to be happy in Ferguson's shadow he gave every impression of relishing centre stage.

He appeared equally at home in the press conference afterwards as he joked, of his still-youthful looks, "as soon as the hair goes I'll chuck it in". But it did not take long before he confessed "the one place I enjoy is on the training pitch, the rest, talking to you lot and everything else, is an occupational hazard". Which is why he is in no rush to replace Derek Fazackerly, sacked as coach last week, with Brian McClair or anyone else. "That's my strength, that's what they have employed me for," he said. Kidd's coaching at Old Trafford was widely praised and, while Roy Hodgson came to Blackburn with a similar reputation, Kidd, after his eight years at Old Trafford, is likely to be more comfortable in the milieu of an English dressing-room.

One experienced journalist suggested last week that Kidd could be found wanting when it came to "show us your medals" time but since, at the time of writing, he is the only member of the Blackburn Rovers staff to possess a European Cup winners' medal - and has more England caps than all but Tim Flowers - this should not be a problem.



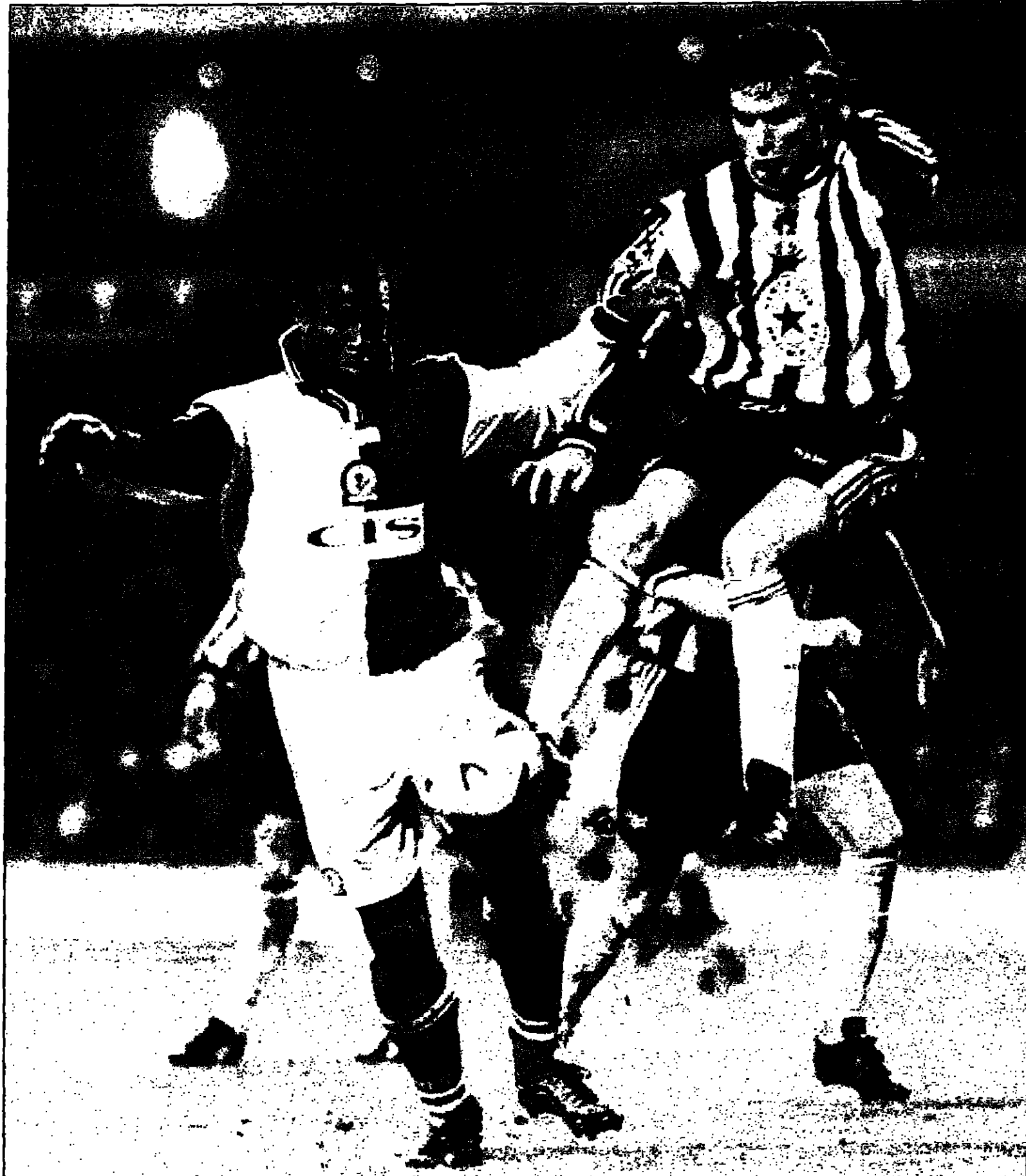
GLENN MOORE

To judge from the players' effort it has not taken long for him to lift their spirits. That Tim Sherwood, one of the most disaffected players under Hodgson, was his best performer was particularly promising. "Tim is a lot happier and there's more camaraderie in the squad," said Rovers' full-back Jeff Kenna. "The new manager really knows his stuff and everyone is keen to impress."

There is certainly no shortage of expectation. Jack Walker, the club's benefactor, said he expects Kidd to make the club "better than top six" material and the supporters showed similar belief with 5,000 more rolling up than last week to produce the biggest gate of the season.

This was still only half the average gate at Old Trafford but the job, in its own way, is as big. Rovers' plight is partly due to the injuries that continue to keep Flowers, Chris Sutton and Kevin Gallacher on the sidelines but the championship side, a team full of good players, has been allowed to break up and not been adequately replaced. This is partly due to poor decision-making but also down to Blackburn's geographical isolation, and in the modern megabucks Premiership, the diminishing clout of Jack Walker's wallet.

There is still the nucleus of a decent side and some good youngsters but it was no surprise to hear that Kidd had spent most of the week on defending - though a neat free-



Blackburn striker Nathan Blake is beaten by an airborne challenge from Newcastle's Dietmar Hamann at Ewood Park on Saturday. Empics

kick, which nearly brought a goal for Sherwood, showed his imagination.

Sherwood later "scored" after 72 minutes but the referee had already given a penalty for a perceived foul on Nathan Blake, who missed from the spot against Newcastle in the Worthington Cup last month, hit a post. "I won't be taking any more against them," he said. A minute earlier the improving Kevin Davies had hit the bar but it was clear that, until Sutton, Gallacher, or both,

were fit the attack would continue to be weak.

Newcastle were even less potent and the post-match reaction reflected aspirations rather than performance. The clean sheet meant Kidd was satisfied with a point when he should have had three while Rudi Voller, though fortunate to even get one, and away from home, was angry. The Newcastle manager was overseeing his 16th match and, while constrained in the transfer market, it is long enough to have im-

posed his philosophy on the team and he was unhappy that it had not been followed. "Certain players disappeared from the game and that cannot happen at this level," he said, ominously.

In a midfield lacking Rob Lee's drive Dieter Hamann did enough to confirm the early-season impression that he would be a useful player when fully fit but Gary Speed, as ever, flattered to deceive while Norbert Solano and Stephen Glass were largely anonymous. Further forward

Duncan Ferguson was unconvincing but it would be hard for anyone to impress with Andreas Andersson as a partner. Whether the combination of Ferguson and Shearer will work remains to be seen but it will at least give defences two players to worry about.

When Shearer will return is anybody's guess, his hamstring injury is taking longer to heal than expected and Gullit was predictably evasive. How long he will then stay is another unanswered question. If Newcastle

fans wondered on Saturday what life, post-Shearer, could be like they did not have far to look. As Blackburn have found, he is a hard act to replace.

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Fetto, Kenna, Henrich, Dally, Davidson, Johnson, Sherwood, McCarthy, Wilson, Blake, Davies. Substitutes not used: Duff, Broome, Marcolin, Croft, Williams (86). Newcastle United (4-4-2): Harper, Charvet, Hughes (Dobras, 64), Hovitz, Barton, Solano, Hamann, Speed, Glass (Geordans, 83), Anderson (Hutchins, 64), Ferguson. Substitutes not used: Barnes, Keen (89). Referee: R. Harris (Oxford). Bookings: Blackburn: Davies, Newcastle: Speed. Man of the match: Sherwood. Attendance: 27,569.

Carbone's class crushes Charlton

BY JON CULLEY

Sheffield Wednesday 3
Charlton Athletic 0

from today's game, we should have had the edge, but we have been beaten again. We are giving away very poor goals and are finding it hard to score ourselves.

The second problem is easily explained by the lack of a genuine Premiership striker, a description which fits neither Clive Mendonca, relegated to the bench on this occasion, nor Andy Hunt. Whether John Aloisi, who may join Charlton from Portsmouth, will prove better remains to be seen.

Wednesday could do with a more productive centre-forward, too, but still had enough firepower on Saturday, flattered as they were by the scoreline. Andy Booth's first-half goal, which Charlton's failure to prevent upset Curbsiey most,

was his first at Hillsborough for 13 months.

Thereafter, some brilliant play by Benito Carbone ultimately secured Wednesday the points after a run which has seen them lose only once in eight Premiership matches, lifting them clear of danger for the moment.

Carbone scored a sublime goal from 25 yards to create the cushion of a two-goal lead, then supplied the cross from which Peter Rudi volleyed Wednesday's third. For the second time in a week, following Monday's defeat of Nottingham Forest, the former Internazionale man had given a virtuoso performance. "His class was the difference," the manager, Danny Wilson, said.

Cynics may note that Wednesday's improvement has coincided with the absence of Paolo Di Canio, still serving his punishment for causing Paul Acock to feel the Hillsborough turf

on his backside, allowing Wilson to avoid the thorny question of whether his team is big enough for two Italian tricksters.

For all their individual brilliance, Carbone and Di Canio together often appear to be conducting their own private contest, to see who can pull off the cleverer stunt, while the rest of the team can go whistle.

Wilson does not need to address that yet: when Di Canio is free to return, against Leicester City on Boxing Day, Carbone will be suspended, having picked up his fifth yellow card.

Goals: Booth (13) 1-0; Carbone (64) 2-0; Rudi (77) 3-0. Sheffield Wednesday (4-4-2): Stricks, Atherton, Thorne, Walker, Hinchliffe, Alexander (Brace, 55), Jona, Sonner, Rudi, Stefani (75), Carbone. Substitutes not used: Clarke, Humphreys, Magilton. Charlton Athletic (4-4-2): Ilic, Mills, Rutter, Vass, Powell, Newton (Barnes, 72), Kuznetsov, Redfern (K Jones, 72), Robinson, Jones, Hunt (Mendonca, 79). Substitutes not used: Brown, Joyce, Raftery, O'Gallagher (Barnaby). Bookings: Carbone, Sonner, Stefanovic. Man of the match: Carbone. Attendance: 26,010.

England batsman Mike Atherton may no longer be so keen after his dubious dismissal by the third umpire in Adelaide, but allowing officials to consult television evidence before making key decisions did not lose credibility with everyone this weekend.

The Forest manager, Dave Bassett, advocated extending the idea to the football Premiership after the incident that effectively changed the course of this match and extended Forest's sequence of games without a victory to 14.

"I don't say we should do it for every decision, because that would slow the game down too much, but when it leads to a goal, it is important that the official gets it right. A single wrong decision can ruin all the effort you put in," he said.

The decision in question came early in the second half when Chris Bart-Williams' attempted clearance struck the

BY PHIL ANDREWS

Leicester City 3
Nottingham Forest 1

hand of his colleague Andy Johnson and the referee, Mike Riley, pointed to the penalty spot. Others might have regarded it as accidental, but Leicester's Matt Elliott was equally unflinching, thumping the kick into the roof of the net to give his side a lead they scarcely deserved.

"That was the turning point," said Bassett. "Until then we had done everything right and were playing with confidence. It was accidental handball but it gave the initiative to them."

His opposite number, Martin O'Neill, had some sympathy with his view. "If the penalty had been awarded against us I would have felt it was harsh," he said. Even so, Forest could have put the incident behind

them and set about pulling back on level terms. But instead of getting even, they got mad.

Johnson earned himself an instant booking for a foul on Neil Lennon before Pierre van Hooijdonk went several steps further with a challenge on Steve Walsh that produced the red card. When he went, so did any chance Forest had of rescuing something from the game.

It was Van Hooijdonk who had given Forest an early lead, coolly converting after Marlon Harwood had dispossessed Walsh. And, but for a fine save by Kasey Keller from Harwood, they might have been well on the way to that elusive win before a tentative Leicester showed any sign of justifying their relatively exalted Premiership placing.

Not until two minutes before half-time did Steve Guppy's growing influence make itself felt, his precise cross from the left being side-footed home by

Ernie Heskey for Leicester's equaliser.

"It was hard work for us but Guppy was outstanding," said O'Neill.

By the time the Leicester winger scored the best goal of the afternoon, shimmering across the face of the penalty area and sending a couple of defenders the wrong way before gliding a low shot into the far corner of Dave Beasant's goal, the controversial penalty had been awarded and this East Midlands derby was already beyond recall for Forest.

Goals: Van Hooijdonk (11) 1-0; Heskey (43) 1-1; Elliott (pen 55) 2-1; Guppy (75) 3-1. Leicester City (3-1-4-2): Keller, Walsh, Foster, 73, Harwood, Kasey, Lennon, Impy, Zogorakis (Savage, 68), Izet, Guppy. Substitutes not used: Arphey (89), Tappin. Nottingham Forest (3-5-2): Beasant, Mattson, Chester, Hirst (Friedman, 81), Stone, Johnson, Gemmell, Bart-Williams, Rogers, Harwood (Shipperley, 2), Van Hooijdonk. Substitutes not used: Crossley, Armstrong, Gray. Referee: M. Riley (Leeds). Sent-off: Van Hooijdonk. Bookings: Forest: Harwood, Johnson, Mattson. Man of the match: Guppy. Attendance: 20,891.



SPORT

RICH NEW PITCH FOR LINDSAY P20 • RICH NEW LIFE FOR JENKINS P18



Villa revival rocks Arsenal

BY PHIL SHAW

Aston Villa 3
Arsenal 2

OUTCLASSED BY Arsenal and trailing to two consummate finishes by Dennis Bergkamp, Aston Villa roared back into a three-point lead in the Premiership yesterday after an extraordinary fight-back culminating in Dion Dublin's winner with seven minutes remaining.

In a contest which had virtually everything - including, sadly, serious injuries to an RAF parachutist in a Father Christmas outfit who hit the stand roof during the interval "entertainment" - Villa appeared to be facing a third defeat in five matches when Bergkamp doubled his tally for the season in the space of 31 first-half minutes.

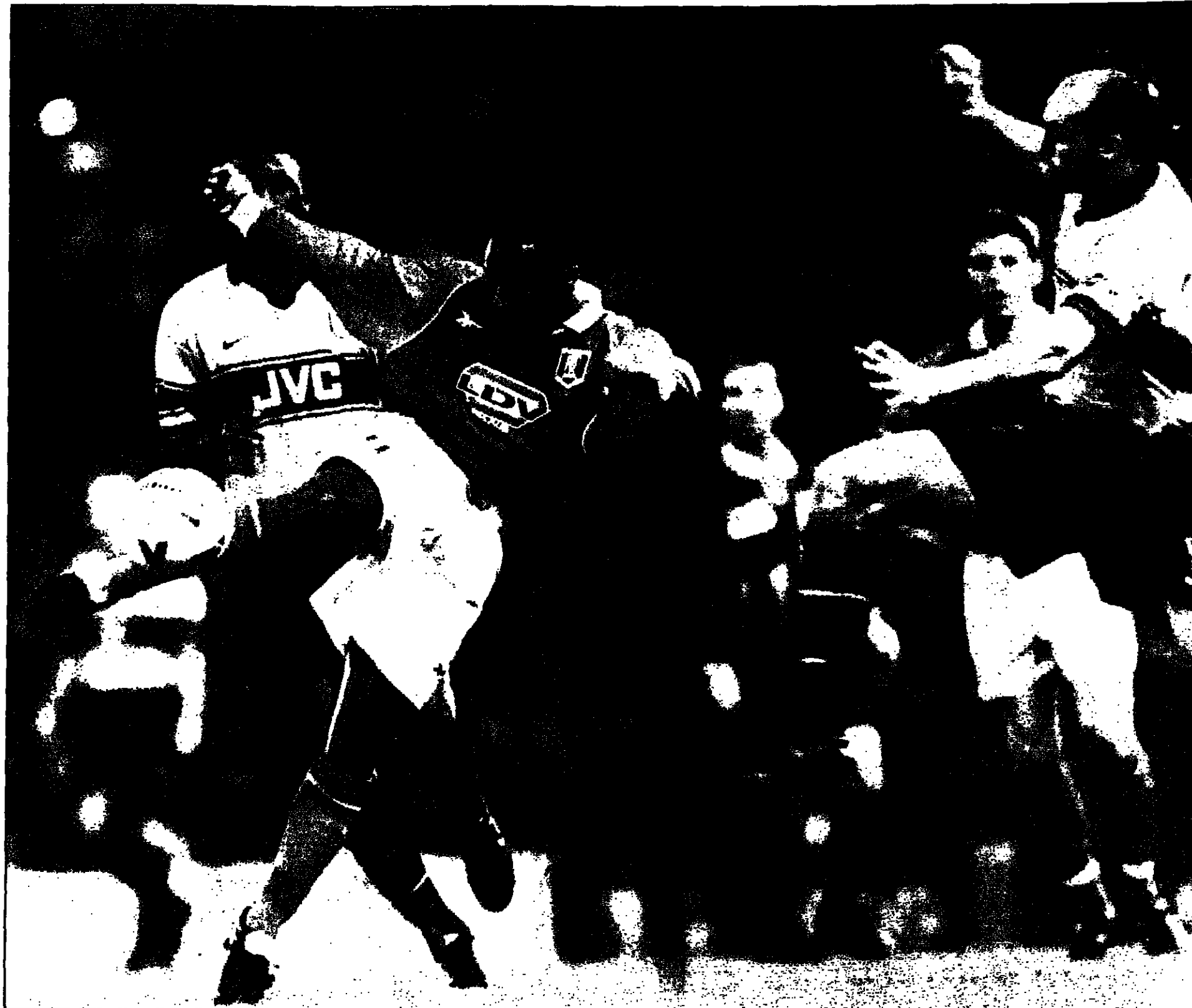
John Gregory's reaction to adversity was typically bold. Early in the second half the Villa manager sent on a third attacker, Stan Collymore, and went to four at the back. Within 10 minutes the champions had been pegged back to parity by Julian Joachim and Dublin. The coup de grace, administered by the former Coventry striker as Arsenal surprisingly buckled under pressure, was no more than the home side deserved.

Arsenal, whose run of five league matches without a win is their worst sequence for three years, were understandably rattled by the end. They had arrived boasting the division's best defensive record, having kept nine clean sheets and let in only seven goals in 16 games. They had not conceded more than one in any Premiership fixture, so Villa's three in 20 minutes must have been hard to stomach.

A further measure of Villa's achievement can be gauged from the fact that - with the exception of a 4-0 loss at Liverpool in May when the newly crowned champions were on cruise-control - Arsenal's goal had not been breached three times in exactly a year. After the last occasion, Blackburn's 3-1 success at Highbury, they embarked on a decisive 18-match unbeaten charge, though it may be asking too much for history to repeat itself.

As for Villa, they are actually better off at the end of their series of three games in nine days against what Gregory calls "the big hitters" (Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal) than they were at the start. Nevertheless, Gregory's post-match comments indicated that no-one would be resting on their laurels.

"Our second-half performance left me speechless," he said, "but I was also speechless



Aston Villa striker Julian Joachim fires past the vain challenge of the Arsenal central defender Steve Bould during his side's 3-2 home victory yesterday

Allsport

Barnsley unmoved by Rovers' Ward bid

BY ALAN NIXON

BRIAN KIDD has made a £4m bid to make Ashley Ward his first signing for Blackburn Rovers. The new manager at Ewood Park has contacted Barnsley with an offer for their highly rated striker. Kidd wants to bring Ward into the survival battle where his goals almost kept the Yorkshire club in the top flight against the odds last season.

Ward is keen to go to the Premier League again and will be interested in Blackburn. Leeds and Leicester were already in the hunt before Kidd took the Rovers' job.

Jack Walker has promised Kidd money to save the club this season and their entry to the chase makes them favourites to sign the wanted man, Ward. However, the Barnsley manager, John Hendrie, is fighting to keep hold of his star player.

He said: "I want to keep Ashley as long as I can. We have rejected Blackburn's approach. In my mind, there is no point in selling him. There is no way he will be leaving while we have a chance of the play-offs."

However, Blackburn are likely to make a renewed and increased bid this week and, with Ward saying that he is keen to leave, Hendrie has a tough battle on his hands.

Kidd's move suggests that he is not happy with the strike force that he has inherited. There are now question marks over their futures, with new boy Nathan Blake under the most pressure. But record buy, Kevin Davies, and even Chris Sutton could be looking over their shoulders if Ward arrives in the next few days.

Ward is currently finishing a four-game suspension for his second red card of the season, but those disciplinary problems do not worry Kidd. The Blackburn manager likes Ward's attitude and the way he leads the line, qualities that shone through in the top flight with Barnsley.

at half-time too. We played with a total lack of conviction in the first half. Even if the second half was the stuff of schoolboy dreams it doesn't lessen that disappointment.

Arsène Wenger, describing defeat as a "huge disappointment", argued that the key to Villa's transformation was their "more physical" approach after the interval. "They started to win the fights and we had problems getting the ball down to pass it around," the Arsenal manager said.

Wenger continued: "Them playing three up-front should have been a plus for us. It ought to have made more space, but we gave the ball away too easily and didn't defend well as a team. You have to be realistic - at the moment we're not title contenders."

Such an admission had seemed implausible at half-time. Bergkamp, stirring from his post-World Cup weariness, gave Arsenal an early lead with a sweet diagonal volley from 16 yards after Nicolas Anelka and

Fredrik Ljungberg had won headers against Ugo Ehiogu and Gareth Barry, respectively.

On the stroke of half-time, following a succession of passes between himself and Anelka, Bergkamp rifed a first-time shot which gave Michael Oakes no chance from 12 yards.

Villa's recovery began shortly after the hour mark. Collymore played a significant part by feeding Lee Hendrie, who in turn rolled the ball square for Joachim to fire his fourth goal in as many games.

Within three minutes, Villa were level in controversial circumstances. Hendrie kicked out at Nelson Vivas under the nose of Stephen Lodge, only for the referee to wave play on.

Within seconds, Dublin was lunging to steer in a miscued shot by the outstanding Alan Thompson from what Wenger claimed was an offside position.

When Arsenal's fabled defence fell for the final time it was to a sucker punch. Martin Keown missed a simple clearing header from Thompson's

corner, allowing Dublin to volley his 12th Premiership goal before a delicious if disbelieving Holte End.

Goals: Bergkamp (14) 0-1; Bergkamp (45) 0-2; Joachim (62) 1-2; Dublin (65) 2-2; Dublin (83) 3-2.

Aston Villa (3-5-2): Oakes; Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry (Collymore, 54); Watson, Hendrie, Taylor, Thompson, Wright, Joachim (Grayson, 57); Dublin. Substitutes not used: Charles, Vassell, Ghent (64). Arsenal (4-4-1-1): Seaman; Dixon, Keown, Boulton, Vivas (Ljungberg, 68); Parry (Bos Morge, 90); Viera, Overmars; Bergkamp; Anelka. Substitutes not used: Welsh, Upson, Marrianger (64). Referee: S. Lodge (Barnsley). Bookings: Villa: Thompson, Wright, Southgate. Arsenal: Bergkamp, Ljungberg, Dixon. Man of the match: Thompson. Attendance: 39,217.

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FLY-BACK
Et Prince



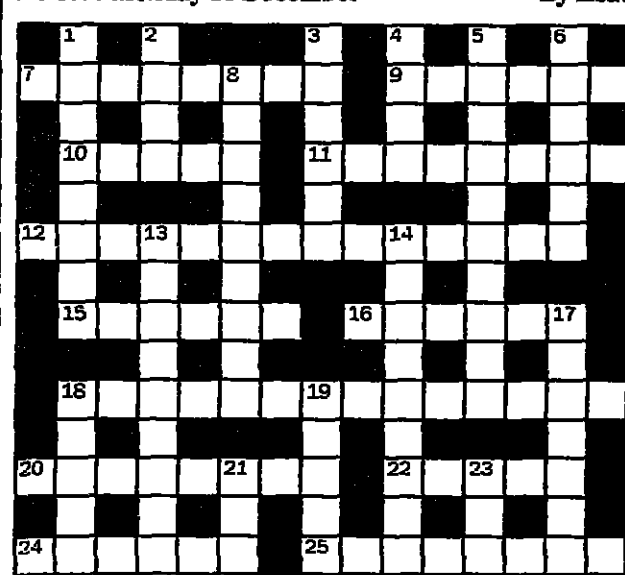
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THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No 3793 Monday 14 December

By Esau



ACROSS
7 Profound split that's demonstrated in icy manner (8)
9 Remove clothes and loot hidden by a Parisian (6)
10 Market-place most idle? Dad'll get round that (5)
11 Sweet type of medication put in some water, and knocked back (8)
12 Last of all, tighten hinges, nuts and bolts (5,9)
15 Work in what's just been mentioned for headgear (3,3)
16 Boss, one beginning to organise recording facility (6)
18 Come to terms with some lawyers' profit, after walk-out? (6,1,7)
20 Huge nervous reaction after article following one-night stand? (8)
22 Works in a concert hall (5)
24 Dog track (6)
25 Shy, squirming in irrita-

tion, revealing body shape (8)

DOWN

1 Becomes less excited, making well-timed riposte in court? (4,4)
2 What adds colour in Iris's menu? Veal, partly (4)
3 Becoming tired of long-haul flights (3,3)
4 Roll up with expensive coat left behind (4)
5 I groped about, having a look inside for rodent (7,3)
6 Figure on extended outside broadcast (6)
8 Trail round shopping precinct having social chat (5,4)
13 Once designed to be carried, that can be sold abroad (10)
14 Four books rubbishing groovy ale? (9)
17 Wild herb you finally found, roaming endlessly around (8)
18 Greedy chap coming in drunk - one stuck into a barrel (6)
19 Tolerate some slight peccadillo, on reflection (6)
21 A great deal involving women in the community (4)
23 Unfinished piece adapted for major work (4)

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Holloioake was betting target

CRICKET

BY MARK PIERSON

ENGLAND HAVE admitted that Adam Holloioake was a target for illegal bookmakers attempting to pull off a betting coup at the Champions' Cup in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, a year ago.

Holloioake, who led England to victory in the two-week tournament, claims he was contacted twice by illegal bookmakers wanting information about weather, pitch conditions, team line-ups and tactics during the two-week tournament.

The Surrey all-rounder refused to co-operate and reported the approaches to David Graveney, the chairman of selectors. Graveney said: "Adam got a fax in our Sharjah hotel regarding the team but he did the right thing and reported it. In the current climate you can't be too careful."

Holloioake said: "The first time I was contacted I assumed the guy was a reporter. He rang me in my hotel room and started asking me questions about the pitch, the team and what we would do if we won the toss. I became suspicious and asked him what newspaper he worked for. He replied, 'No, no, I am not a reporter. I am making a book.' I told him where to get off. The next night

another man contacted me. He referred me to the previous contact with his colleague and starting asking all sorts of questions about tactics and so forth. When I said I was not going to help him he became aggressive.

"Then, he told me if I co-operated he would make me a millionaire. I told him he was wasting his time. "I am convinced that none of my team was involved in any wrongdoing but suspicious have been raised about what went on during the tournament and they have taken the gloss off our success. I would hate to think we did not win the trophy fair and square."

The revelations come at the end of a week in which Australia's Shane Warne and Mark Waugh admitted they were fined in 1995 for taking money from an Indian bookmaker for giving similar information.

Meanwhile, England's problems continue in Adelaide after another batting collapse on the third day.

England on the rack, West Indies' struggles, page 23

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COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



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Y2K troubles

Sir: If it is true, as your architecture correspondent suggest ("Will the Earth move anyone?", 11 December), that many of the 14 Landmark Projects part-funded by the Millennium Commission are having to cut back on their original plans, then I suggest this is a matter of national concern.

The £500m investment of lottery funds, together with a matching sum from partners, sponsors, etc, represents a unique investment in much-needed educational and leisure facilities across the country. Many of the Landmark Projects, such as the National Space Science Centre being developed in Leicester (nappily one of the more financially robust projects), will provide a vital source of information and inspiration, as well as entertainment, to young and old alike into the next century. In the case of the NSSC there is also strong interest across Europe. With Landmark Projects due to open in 2000 or 2001 crucial decisions, not only on architecture, but also in content, must be imminent, if not already taken. A widespread cut-back in their quality and vision would be tragic.

Is it not, therefore, urgent that the Millennium Commission – and relevant government ministers – take time off from their concerns about the Greenwich dome to ensure the nationwide investment in these long-term educational facilities does not become a major-missed opportunity?

Professor KEN POUNDS
Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of Leicester

Sir: I take issue with Charles Arthur's assertion that the Y2K problem is caused by programmers "whose fault this is, if you'd forgotten" (Millennium Bug Watch, 8 December).

The decision to use two-digit dates was taken for cost reasons (memory was very expensive then). This happened over 30 years ago and the Y2K problem was recognised at least a decade ago (I knew about it during my school years in 1988).

Why then have the industry management and government taken so long to pull their heads out of the sand? The usual reason: it never occurred to them that to understand a complex subject well enough to make policy decisions takes time and effort (which of course is of no short-term managerial or electoral benefit to them).

MARK REARDON
Leeds

Lockerbie mystery

Sir: Mervyn Benford is mistaken (letter, 7 December). As a signatory of the Montreal Convention, which it has not denounced, Britain is evidently content with the Libyan system and legally obliged to accept that Libya should try the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing in Libya.

Under Article 7 of the Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation 1971, signed by Britain, Libya and the USA, a contracting state in whose territory an alleged offender is found shall, if it does not extradite him, be obliged without exception whatsoever and whether or not the offence was committed in its territory to submit the case to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution. That is the legal position. Morally and ethically Britain may take a different view.

As the father of a Lockerbie victim, my concern is not whether the two men, acting on their own or as agents for the Libyan state, contrived to get a bomb through all the checks in Malta, Frankfurt and Heathrow with or without assistance by others. My concerns are: why Pan Am 103 was blown up; how it was blown up given the intelligence services and aviation security systems, and how

terrorism can be prevented by enabling people or countries with grievances, real or imagined, to get a fair hearing so that they are not driven to terrorism.

I hope that the present moves to get a trial in The Hague succeed. But the trial, whatever its outcome, would not alleviate by one little bit our pain. We need to know the whole truth and perhaps could then find some grain of comfort from that knowledge contributing to preventing acts of terrorism.

MARTIN CADMAN
Burnham Market, Norfolk

Why teach?

Sir: I was amused to hear of Tony Blair's desire for teachers to have parity of esteem with doctors. The Green Paper on teachers' pay and conditions holds out the prospect for a small proportion of classroom teachers to earn £35,000 per annum, and outstanding heads who turn around failing schools, which may have over 2,000 pupils and several hundred staff, up to £70,000.

Such remuneration compares with over £50,000, and in many cases much more, for a GP, and up to £112,000 for a hospital consultant whose weekly contracted hours amount to only 35, thus leaving much free time to earn still more enormous sums from private practice.

Ambitious, highly-achieving school students in maths and science with a vocational bent will continue to choose medicine as their career of first choice, and anyone who believes potential earnings is not the most important factor is ignorant of human nature.

STEPHEN USHERWOOD
Nottingham

Sir: I went into teaching for the holidays. I was 19 with an appetite for theatre, mountains, travel, films, books and life. I figured that the best way to do what I wanted for as much of the year as possible was to teach – 13 glorious weeks of holiday a year, 18 if I went private. I sky-dived around America. I

cycled through France, I saw every single Shakespeare play. I wrote a clutch of short stories for radio, I trekked in Nepal and I read everything I could lay my hands on. And in term time, I returned to my classes and taught English and loved it.

Now, 20 years later, when I read about David Blunkett's payment by results, I think, "No, you've got it all wrong. You haven't asked the teachers." Really good teachers need really well paid holidays. The private sector has always known this. Holidays for the teachers are like company cars for the executives – central to the package for getting the job well done.

Just mention the holidays, Mr Blunkett: that is the way to sell teaching to students – and any student with the right qualities for the classroom will jump at it.

JENNY GUBB
Cambridge

Goodbye Scotland

Sir: Andrew Thornbury (letter, 9 December) makes the assumption that if Scotland separates from the United Kingdom then my country

would cease to exist. However, I think it would then consist of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The loss of five or six million Scotch people would no doubt diminish the UK, but I'm sure we would remain part of the EU. Scotland, having left, would have to reapply.

JOHN THIRKILL
Norwich

Sir: The Scots joined England for sound economic reasons, helped by wholesale bribery of the Scottish Parliament.

The Corsicans were seized by France, as were Alsace and Lorraine. The Corsicans, like the Scots, went on to make a good thing out of running and exploiting an empire. There is now no empire and the Corsicans and Scots would now rather enjoy their own identity.

I worked in the City of London for many years; it is largely funded and run by non-UK entities; the staff are international. Without this ability to deal with capital and human resources without regard to national origin there would be no City. Does Peter Gresham

(letter, 4 December) imagine that the imperial nation state is the only basis of political organisation.

The greatest cultural re-awakening we know came out of the Europe of mini-states and principalities. Big states, like big companies, may well be a sign of economic and cultural weakness: merge when times are good.

JSH McLAREN
Dunbar, East Lothian

Costly questions

Sir: Having voted for Norman Baker in the last election I am worried by the reputation he has acquired for asking a record number of allegedly trivial questions in the Commons, and his odd argument that extra work does not have any cost (letter, 7 December). One wonders which of his constituents' welfare was advanced by knowing the age of the oldest bottle of wine in the Foreign Office cellars.

Mr Baker should take care. His Lewes constituency is a marginal one. If the Conservatives ever

recover from the shock of losing the seat, any reputation for triviality could be exploited by them, and the cost of his questions would be borne by him and his party.

PAUL BARRACLOUGH
Seaford, East Sussex

Lords: let's vote

Sir: The Government has no right to tinker with the House of Lords. Major constitutional change is the prerogative of the electorate.

The need for a second chamber was amply demonstrated recently by the repeated rejection by the Lords of the closed-list system of proportional representation. The Lords were right to resist this attempt by the Prime Minister to erode democracy. Despite this, it is intolerable that the second chamber should not be wholly elected. Now the Prime Minister appears to want what is, in effect, a wholly appointed second chamber – a further erosion of democracy.

In a referendum, it is likely that the electorate would agree the immediate abolition of the House of Lords provided that a democratically elected replacement took its place. There would need to be a public debate about how, in the interests of maximising democracy, the new chamber should be elected.

Proposals which cede more power to the Prime Minister are not likely to prove acceptable. It should be possible to offer the electorate a clear choice – keep the House of Lords or elect a second chamber using the proposed method.

A referendum is the only way to dispel the suspicion that the Government is not really interested in increasing democracy. The present tinkering suggests that ministers really view the House of Lords as a place giving power and patronage to the Prime Minister and as a sinecure for their retirement.

DAVID MCKAIGUE
Thornton Hough, Merseyside

Fixing the charts

Sir: I was interested to read your report about titled assertions of chart fixing by Lord Lloyd-Webber and Sir Tim Rice (10 December). Their statement that "for nearly half a century the British pop music charts have provided an accurate, informative and enjoyable guide to the most popular recordings of the day" is spot on, but also only in the "talking complete bollocks" department.

There never were halcyon days of honest charts, however much those who used to enjoy chart success might wish to assert it was so. The principal difference now is that chart fixing is a more expensive undertaking than it used to be. Only artists with high profiles and lots of marketing slush-money being spent on them are likely to be beneficiaries of this abysmal practice. Expect therefore to see assertions like mine being supported only by those, like me, who enjoyed success in the days when the record labels only had to give away goods in a few hundred stores to bend the charts to their marketing desires.

Of course if you want to bypass the charts and the stores completely, then buy your records on the Internet. Any suggestion however that I am merely passing on my views in order to plug my excellent, secure, online service that sells very reasonably priced quality David Knopfler CDs would of course be a terrible slur.

DAVID KNOPFLER
Petersfield, Hampshire

The writer was a Founding member of Dire Straits and is the author of "The Bluffer's guide to Rock"

Crowded planet

Sir: I have the greatest sympathy for anyone faced with damage to their local environment, be it by an energy company or from any other cause. However, when I read of Wiebo Ludwig's troubles ("War in Peace County", 8 December), I wonder if his concern for the environment ever leads him to wonder how his 11 children will find their living?

Perhaps they will follow their father's way, and live a life of farming self-sufficiency and religion, each in turn having 11 or so children, who, in turn, will have another 11 or so? That would need another 125 or so farms the size of his to support them. How many acres are there in Trickle Creek? More likely, many, if not most of them will join ordinary Canadian society. They will need heat and power, will buy cars, and take jet planes to holidays in the sun to get away from the cold Canadian winters. For this they will use gas and oil, and lots of it. Do you think there is any chance of Wiebo making a connection here?

CHRISTOPHER PADLEY
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

Art and nature

Sir: Before Ray Hutchins expressed his emotions all over the steps of the Tate Gallery ("Dirty protest marks Tate's Turner winner", 11 December), he should, being an artist, have reflected that until the development of the chemical dye-stuffs industry in the middle of the last century, painters, including presumably those he admires most, were constrained to use only naturally occurring substances.

Thus squashed beetles, and the secretions of various molluscs, bound together by the products of the hen or the bee, were among the raw materials of many a priceless work of art. Even the brush, which perhaps Mr Hutchins from time to time brings to a delicate point between his lips, may contain the perianal hairs of a medium-sized rodent.

To object to Chris Ofili's use of elephant dung is to confuse matter and form. Rather we should wonder what the world has lost because this highly proteinaceous and plastic material was not available to Michelangelo.

Dr DAVID ZUCK
London N12

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Christmas Workers No 1: the choirboy. Fatigue creeps in as the St Paul's boys' choir runs through the final rehearsal of Handel's 'Messiah' Tom Pilon

IN BRIEF

of dangerous individuals has been released in their midst and reinforcing stereotypes about mental illness.

Dr CHRIS ALLEN
Consultant Clinical Psychologist
Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Sir: The northern fringe of Bristol is controlled by a separate authority and competes with the city for office and shopping developments. It allows almost unlimited parking. Charges for parking in city centres, as proposed in the recent White Paper, will simply result in pressure for more out-of-town

offices and shops to the detriment of the city centre. John Prescott should impose a uniform tax on business and retail parking, whether in city centres or on their fringes.

JAMES BRUGES
Bristol

Sir: It is not often that you get good news from the clergy, but I am grateful to the Bishop of St Albans (letters, 12 December) for drawing my attention to the lack of an "act of worship" on BBC television's 25 December schedule. If I now heard that the Queen's message is also off, it might almost be safe to tune in.

RICHARD GUISE
Long Eaton, Derbyshire

Do your eyes deceive you? As if you needed to ask...

I DIDN'T see the Carlton TV programme about drug money, *The Connection*, which *The Guardian* claimed was full of trickery and fakery. Come to that, I didn't see *The Guardian* claims that the programme was rigged, either, but I did see a copy of *Broadcast*, the weekly magazine about TV and radio, which reported the whole affair in some alarm. Assuming the piece in *Broadcast* was not a leg-pull, it seems that the Carlton award-winning documentary was pulling the wool over our eyes, and the drug-money-laundering activities were sort of invented for the report.

That was bad enough. What *The Guardian* and *Broadcast* didn't report was something worse, that a recent edition of *Newsnight* was also rigged.

There was a sequence in which

Jeremy Paxman was asking questions of a well known politician, and the politician was giving his well known answers. As the politician talked, the camera cut to Paxman for his reactions, and he was seen nodding slightly, as if he was interested either in what the man was saying, or in the next question he was going to put to him.

I can now reveal that Paxman was not, while seen nodding, in fact listening to the politician at all.

Indeed, the politician was not there at all. The politician had had to leave in a hurry after the interview, and so the reaction shots had to be done while Paxman was all alone. I can also reveal that Paxman had to ask some of the questions again long after the politician had given the answers and disappeared, and was

therefore pretending to talk to a man who was not there. The BBC is well aware that this kind of deception takes place on a regular basis, and refuses to do anything about it.

I can further reveal that Jeremy Paxman is not the only television performer guilty of this sort of deception. Everyone else does it as well. Almost everyone you see on TV nodding or smiling or frowning in agreement and disagreement is doing it for the camera, long after the moment which provoked the reaction has passed.

Almost everything that happens on television doesn't really happen. It has to be rehearsed, rearranged, repeated, reasssembled or dismantled, so that it works. Conquests on game shows say the spontaneous things they have planned

beforehand. Canned laughter is fed in, just in case the audience doesn't laugh loud enough. Even



MILES KINGSTON
Jeremy Paxman pretending to talk to a man who was no longer there

beforehand. Canned laughter is fed in, just in case the audience doesn't laugh loud enough. Even

when a documentary is telling the truth, it has to fix things to make them seem as true as they are.

I can reveal that the cinema is no less guilty than television. When the hero falls from the train, or jumps on to the passing horse, it is very often not the star whom we are watching, but a stunt man.

Indeed, there was a film some years back in which David Bowie and Marlene Dietrich both featured. The film had several scenes in which Dietrich and Bowie were alone together, deep in talk. Bowie was later asked what he had made of the ageing, legendary Dietrich, and he revealed that he had never met her. Their scenes together were not shot in two-shot, the camera always cut from the face of one to the face of the other, and each person had played his or her

part at a different time and in a different country.

Of course, theatre-goers would claim that at least the stage is for real. What you see is what you get. Everything happens as it happens. But this is not true either. Nightly, Macbeth dies at the end of the Scottish play. I can now reveal that he does not die at all, but only pretends to die – indeed, even more disgracefully, he comes back again the following night and the night after that, to die all over again.

Yet as soon as the curtain falls, the supposedly dead Macbeth jumps up and is as alive as ever.

I can also reveal that books are no more to be trusted. A travel writer once told me that half the conversations he put into his travel books were not remembered, but made up to resemble the sort of

conversations he did have on the road. Trouble was, he now couldn't remember which half were made up and which were real.

So whom are we to trust? Which documentary can we assume is really telling the truth about things?

If everything is rigged, can we believe anything?

Should I now reveal that this article is, in fact, totally fabricated from start to finish?

Of course not. But I can at least suggest a solution to the Carlton drug documentary dilemma. The next time that they have a well shot, well made and well acted documentary which turns out to be based on a complete fiction, don't change the programme. Simply change the category and relabel it as a drama.

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How to hobble the President of the United States

BILL CLINTON will cut a biblical figure in Gaza this week: a hairless Samson, a distracted Solomon, a once-powerful mediator unable to persuade either warring side to stick to the path of righteousness and peace. This is a lame-duck President, and the semi-collapse of the Middle East peace process is one good reason why a reprehensible but essentially trivial affair with an intern matters to the world.

It was widely assumed, after the failure of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, to convince the American people that their President had done anything seriously wrong, that Mr Clinton was over the worst. But public opinion is only one of the checks and balances in the United States constitution, and is not the most important of them.

So the impeachment process kept rolling along, in defiance of public opinion and even of common sense, following a series of logical switches that has taken it ever further away from dodgy land deals in Arkansas and yet has closed in on the President as if he were in a paranoid dream.

On Thursday, Mr Clinton's nightmare will either end, or will descend another big step into the pit of nameless dangers. If the House of Representatives votes against all four draft articles of impeachment, there is still time for the Kid to make one last Comeback, and to redeem his presidency in its last two years. Middle East peace, the global environment and the threat of recession at home are all challenges on which a reinvigorated President could make his mark.

If, on the other hand, the House votes to send even one article of impeachment to the Senate, then Mr Clinton will be remembered in history as a failure. Fundamentally, such a vote would change nothing. For all its resonance in American politics, the word "impeach" simply means "indict" or "charge", and, if the President is impeached, that means a majority of Representatives believe he has a case to answer. It is the Senate, the upper house of Congress, that has to convict him, and by a two-thirds majority which Mr Clinton's opponents know they cannot muster.

So there is no question of Mr Clinton's being forced from office. But impeachment would be a historic humiliation: it has happened only once before. More importantly, it would mean that the diversion of the energies of White House staff and of the President himself would continue. There would have to be hearings, and Mr Clinton and Monica Lewinsky would both be called to give evidence.

This week, Mr Clinton will be on the telephone back to Washington almost all the time he is in Israel and the embryonic Palestinian state. If the House votes for impeachment on Thursday, it will vote for the United States to continue to be hobbled in the all-important work of building a better world.



Remember the real animal welfare issues

WHEN IT comes to their relations with other animals, human beings seem strangely incapable of deploying the reason that is their main distinguishing feature. Barry Horne, the hunger striker for animal rights, is right to draw attention to the unnecessary cruelty involved in some animal testing. He is wrong to assert, as he does by implication, that he is prepared to die for the cause, that this is the animal rights issue above all others. As some of our correspondents have pointed out, there are two much larger groups of animals that are often treated badly by humans: those we use for food, and those we use as pets. Then there is the even larger issue, which is the threat posed by the sheer scale of the reproductive "success" of our species to the survival of thousands of other diverse

species. In its impact on the evolution of species on this planet, the catastrophe of human expansion does not yet match the event - probably a giant meteorite - which wiped out the dinosaurs. But give it time.

We report today on two aspects of this. First, the short-haired bumblebee, a species native to Britain, has been declared extinct - no trace has been found since the early Eighties. The World Wide Fund for Nature warns that the skylark, songthrush and water vole will follow it into oblivion in the first decade of the next century. And this is nothing as to the destruction of species in other parts of the world, including many animals in the rainforests which have never even been identified.

Second, we report on the threat to the fish stocks in the seas around our islands. This should not be an anti-European issue; most of the problem is that we have over-fished our own fish. We urgently need our politicians to rise above such pettiness and to start tackling some of the real "big picture" issues, such as how to save the skylark.

Warn, yes; scare, no

IN THE old days millenarians were worried about the end of the world. Now we are worried about whether the fridges will work when the date hits a big round number. The Government is caught on the horns of a classic dilemma: it wants us to be worried, but not too worried.

Gwyneth Flower, head of the Government's own Millennium Bug task force, seems to have gone too far in the direction of the counter-productive cry: "Don't panic!" Her call for people to stockpile cans of soup, curries, tuna, packets of biscuits and long-life milk was silly. "Squirrel!" Thatcher got into similar trouble when she advised pensioners to hoard tins as a hedge against inflation in 1975. What Ms Flower meant to say was: don't expect your local supermarket to be open on Saturday 1 January 2000, because, however well prepared retailers are, something unforeseen could go wrong somewhere along the food supply chain. Thanks for the tip.

With this government, keep your eye on the reality not the rhetoric

NO ONE could accuse the Government of rushing into welfare reform. Tomorrow the Social Security Secretary, Alistair Darling, will publish with a flourish his pensions Green Paper. The proposals have been a long time coming, and will be more modest than the former Social Security Minister Frank Field would have liked. But in their practical modesty they will provide the clearest indication yet of what the Government has decided it means by the "modernisation" of the Welfare State.

It seems like an age since Field launched his welfare reform Green Paper to an even bigger fanfare than that which will accompany Darling around the television and radio studios this week. For a government that never knowingly undersells any initiative, Field's welfare reform Green Paper was the most over-hyped event since the election. Rather cleverly, the impression was given that the welfare bullet had been bitten, and a series of radical measures were soon to be implemented. The degree to which this was very much a preliminary opening in the welfare debate became clear in the summer. The departure of Field in July caused only a political ripple. His exit from the DSS did not send the reforms off course, as they were on no course to be sent off from.

When Darling moved into the Department of Social Security after the Cabinet reshuffle he did not find endless controversial policies requiring urgent amendment. He found virtually no policies at all.

So far, the Government has been the victim of its own hype, its confused objectives and the sheer, nightmar-

ishly logistic challenge of reforming the Welfare State. As far as they go, the welfare reforms implemented have been important and valuable improvements. Three cheers for the minimum wage, welfare to work, changes to the working families' tax credit and the other items on a long list that ministers recite when they are challenged about welfare reform.

There is nothing wrong with the list. It is the disparity between its contents and the apparent ambition which is the source of the problem. For a long time, Tony Blair, the most focused of prime ministers on other big issues, abetted with a clear sense of long-term objectives, did not appear to know what he wanted from welfare.

Field's appointment after the election reflected the importance Blair attaches to political symbolism. His departure reflected Blair's wariness of the practical consequences arising from symbolic acts. In between coming and going, Field attempted to adapt his well known radical policies to what he took to be the pragmatic demands of the Treasury, which meant they were neither especially practical, nor coherent.

Meanwhile Harriet Harman became sucked into the more mundane rigours of a public spending review that was under pressure to show that the Government could live up to its pre-election pledges to transfer some welfare expenditure into education and health. Simultaneously, several other departments were exploring housing benefit reform and other employment measures uncertain of objective. It is no surprise that a year

STEVE RICHARDS

Three cheers for a sensible welfare reform, but let the Government not pretend it is more daring than it is

ago this week the Government suffered a revolt over cuts in single parent benefit. It is a miracle that there were not more cock-ups early on. I doubt there will be any cock-ups from now on. Instead, incremental reforms rather than big bangs will be the order of the day. The stakeholder pension which Darling will unveil (in fact, he will hardly unveil it, as the ideas have been around for at least a year in the form of a stakeholder's pension booklet produced by the Junior Social Security Minister, John Denham) will encourage those on low incomes to take out a second pension without compelling them to do so. There will be incentives and warnings of penalties for those who do not.

Field supported a compulsory stakeholder scheme, involving redistribution from rich to poor by forcing

the well-off to subsidise contributions of those on low incomes. Not surprisingly, the more the pensions' web was explored, the more complicated it became. A compulsory system would have produced odd consequences, proving a poor return, for example, for those earning less than £9,000 a year who would still have had to rely on state hand-outs when they retired.

Darling's stakeholder pension can be introduced without causing a great political storm, and will result in more people on low incomes becoming aware of the need for a second pension, while making it much easier for them to get one. Again, three cheers for a sensible reform, but let the Government not pretend that it is more radical and daring than it really is.

Let us have less of the distorting glitter: welfare roadshows embarked on before policies had been decided; prime-ministerial speeches made on a council estate, yet devoid of substance; welfare reform Green Papers promising yet more Green Papers. All have given the impression that something dramatic was about to happen. Instead, ministers should acknowledge that they are attempting something more incremental than the presentation has often implied.

This does not mean that Darling is doomed to become a reincarnation of Peter Lilley, who chipped away at social security spending, and got a cheer at his annual party conference each year when he proposed new measures to tackle fraud. The proposals were usually accompanied by a verse, which he sang badly. The cheers got louder on each reappearance, his au-

dience conveniently ignoring the same promises had been made the year before. The end was nigh for Field when, weeks before being sacked, he announced, Lilley-like, "dramatic" policies to attack fraud.

Darling is working to a set of three progressive principles, rather than imposing savings here and there. They are worth repeating, because they get lost in the hype:

- There should be employment opportunities for all
- Work should pay
- Provision should be made for those who are "incapable of work"

The principles were hammered out while he was still at the Treasury, although that does not mean Gordon Brown has taken over the welfare review. Indeed, some of Darling's former colleagues in the Treasury fear he has gone native. "He looks as if he is acting tough, but really he's still asking for a lot more money," observed one. In other words, do not expect the social security budget to fall as the Government improves, rather than radically overhauls, the welfare state.

Practical reforms within a social security budget that is likely to go up a little rather than down is no bad outcome, as long as ministers admit that is their aim. Any more over-hyped rhetoric will be a sign that they still have no confidence in what they are doing. If Darling sings a song at the next party conference and singles out cutting fraud as his main objective, we shall know that he has failed.

The author is political editor of the 'New Statesman'

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He was asked at a public event what he wanted on his gravestone. Quick as a flash, he replied: 'I don't want to go.'"

Marcia Stanton, secretary to Lord Grade

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The owl of Minerva spreads its wings only with the falling of the dusk."

GWF Hegel, German philosopher

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FROM THE standpoint of both public opinion and the Constitution, censure is still the preferred way to punish President Clinton. But he left Washington yesterday without offering meaningful assistance to those who are trying to save him from being the second President to be impeached by the House of Representatives.

By putting his own semantic road-blocks in the way of censure, Mr Clinton is giving new meaning to political self-

destruction. He is daring a Republican Congressional majority that should not be dared. The New York Times

AS THE House Judiciary Committee was voting out the first article of impeachment, President Clinton emerged from the White House to deliver himself of one more act of contrition. There is little in this type of ritual apology that ought to help Mr Clinton's case. Even for those of us who oppose im-

peachment, there is something objectionable about yet another example of verbally excessive breast-beating combined with the appearance - devoid of the reality - of candor.

What would be right is for him to admit finally the now obvious facts that he lied under oath and either encouraged others to do so or at least knowingly tolerated their

doing so on his behalf. Then he could make the case, a case we grudgingly support, that his offenses, while grave, should not cause his impeachment.

The Washington Post

THE EXTREME punishment of removal from office is disproportionate to Mr Clinton's misconduct. Instead, both houses of Congress ought to pass a searing condemnation of Mr Clinton's disregard for the law.

This joint resolution would require the President's signature, which he indicated Friday he would consider.

Some critics have called such a censure an affront to the Constitution, which specifies the process of impeachment and conviction. On the contrary, it is a sensible middle ground between the over-reaction of impeachment and the unacceptability of doing nothing.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The US Sunday papers consider the articles of impeachment to be voted on this week

DAY REVIEW
14 December 1998

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A real kitchen-sink drama



JOHN WALSH
The world of the television chef is one of deadly competition, with no room for compromise

IMAGINE A room filled with plumbers; or with arbitrageurs; or with circuit judges; or with circus clowns; or with poets, or shoe fetishists, or supermarket check-out girls, or Savile Row tailors, or publishers, or burglars, or radiologists, or people in even more rarefied occupations, such as dowagers, chicken sexers, or those glamorous women who parade around boxing rings while the pugilists are being swabbed and de-blooded, carrying huge signs saying "Round 6". Imagine any of these groups of individuals from the same trade or profession or persuasion, think of them in an upstairs room, sharing the same oxygen and canapés, and ask yourself: what would they talk about? And how would they get on?

It's a seasonal enquiry, of course. In the pre-Christmas party season that lies ahead, there'll be thousands of such convocations across the land, thousands of petty rivalries and jealousies and flirtations and sudden, urgent claspings (and indeed unclaspings) after midnight. There will be the usual carnage of embarrassments at company thrashes, the time-honoured games of "Telling the Group Head Where He Can Stick His Annual Assessment, the furtive advances by the "quiet ones" on the staff, and the unscheduled disrobings of the bought ledger department - but that doesn't concern us now.

What intrigues me is how groups of semi-professionals get on together. Journalists, for instance, rarely talk about journalism at newspaper functions. They tell each other stories - that is, after all, the sea they swim in - and take the piss out of each other's pretensions to importance. But what about barristers? Do they say, "I freely concede that..." and "May I refer you to *Crown vs Pilkington-Smythe, 1908*" and bitch about the price of wigs and Michael Mansfield's fees, or do they argue about football? Do armed robbers, when they meet in a noisy dive, discuss the virtues of the hammerless sawn-off shotgun or new trends in leather jackets? If you walked into a roomful of Treasury wonks, would you find them deep in discussion about whether Alanis Morissette had or hadn't extended the boundaries of the confessional lyric?



Beware the passionate intensity of celebrity chefs. Marco Pierre White, above, gets down to his real job, cooking

Some professional groupings behave according to type. I once attended a senior common room lunch at an Oxford college, where the menu promised a "traditional" baked-apple pudding dating from Tudor times, and witnessed a heated exchange, full of academic sneers and toxic put-downs, about the exact date at which sugar was introduced to English cooking. But, by and large, people remain people when they're huddled en masse in the company of their peers.

Just don't ever get me in the same room as a lot of celebrity chefs, that's all I ask. What a shower. Always barking with paranoia, always full of rivalry, always pugnacious, quick to anger and full of dyspeptic condemnation of their rivals, they're never going to be jolly company, are they? In a new book, Bob Mullan, a psychologist, interviews 18 of the brights and instead of learning the secrets of the perfect soufflé, finds himself presiding over a noisy cat-fight.

What does Tom Aikens (of the hugely expensive Pied-à-Terre restaurant in London's Charlotte Street) think of Nico Ladenis's

establishment, *Chez Nico*? "A pile of shit." What does the grand, world-conquering Marco Pierre White make of Pied-à-Terre? "Shit. The cooking falls apart." How does Michel Roux, sainted foodie doyen of the restaurant Le Gavroche, regard the views of Mr Ladenis? They're "bollocks with a capital B". What does Nico think of M. Roux? "He is like a dead sheep."

And so on. This is a world of deadly competition, with no room for congratulation or compromise. The violent mutual dislike of the nation's top chefs is wondrous to behold. Their vicious squabbles over who "deserves" two or three Michelin stars are like schoolboys fighting over house points. And, we learn from Mullan, the violence of their language is often mirrored in their kitchens, where it's apparently routine for trainee chefs to get punched in the face for dropping a plate, and the lady straining over a hot stove at the super-trendy Pharmacy in Holland Park occasionally throws a pot of boiling legumes at the wall in a fit of irritation.

But where is Delia Smith in all this? The nation's favourite cook has

never, to my knowledge, opened a restaurant and thus has never had to suffer the consequences of strutting her stuff nightly. Though Gary Rhodes may have criticised her condescending approach to boiled water, she's never had to suffer the cruel slurs of the lavatorial Mr Aikens. Instead, from behind the redoubts of the best-selling cookbook and the popular series, she lectures the country on Spanish omelettes in a delivery so precise, so Anglo-Irishly bossy, that the country instantly does whatever she says. But what would she be like in a restaurant kitchen? Would she stop being fragrant and measured, and take on the spirit of all these warring chefs?

Picture it: *How to Cook with Delia Smith*, Episode 9. Delia: Hello again. Today we're going to be making toad in the hole with saffron potatoes. Helping me in the kitchen today is my friend Eric, who lives next door. Eric, what's the first thing we do with toad in the hole?

Eric: Um. Erm. Chop an onion? Delia (tinkly laugh): Oh, dear me no. The first thing we do is get out at least 24 little glass bowls and

measure pointlessly tiny amounts of ingredients into them, one by one, including "oil" and "pinch of salt". It takes hours, and it's hell to wash up, but it looks good on TV.

Eric: Righty-ho.

Delia: Now, we put the flour into this bowl, make a little well, drop in the egg and whisk it until we have a lovely batter. Eric, what are you doing?

Eric: Peeling the spuds, Delia.

Delia: Not with a potato-peeler, you silly boy. You must use the Tungssten Steel Advanced Tuber-Playing Implement that I've been recommending the nation to use, a snip at £19.99.

Eric: Sorry. Shall I get out the sausages?

Delia: Cooking sausages is an essential element in English cuisine, yet people constantly get it wrong. Simply take the sausage in the right hand, place it on the hot, oily surface of the frying-pan and leave it there.

Eric: You forgot to prick them with a fork.

Delia: Don't you tell me what to do, you pipsqueak.

Eric: But I thought you were

supposed to prick sausages. Delia: Listen, sweetie, who's the one with the Sainsbury's contract round here? Who sells 60,000 discounted hardbacks a week - me or you?

Eric (mutinously): It's only sausages.

Delia (screams): It's my life's work! Telling people how to cook more and more elementary dishes in increasingly elementary ways! And you come in here telling me how to run my kitchen...

Eric: OK. OK. (Backs away.) No need to get excited. (Drops whisk.)

Oops.

Delia: My egg whisk! Or, more precisely, my De Luxe Aluminum Ovum Flagellator! Take that (punches Eric on nose).

Eric: Ow. Ow. Ow. This is assault.

Delia: And battery. (Throws bowl of liquid at Eric's head.) Now get out.

Eric: Christ, I'm bleeding.

Delia: Aha. (Turns to camera.) Black pudding can be a nourishing and inexpensive addition to any breakfast. First, catch 50 fluid ounces of blood in a bowl, or more accurately a Premium Grade Plated Chrome Haemoglobin Receptacle, only £48.75.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DONALD BRUCE



The head of the Society, Religion and Technology Project of the Church of Scotland replies to our leading article

CLONING EMBRYOS for transplant cells has become the latest medical holy grail. Remarkably, the report of the Human Genetics Advisory Commission and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority fails to discuss whether this is ethical.

It explores why cloning a human being is wrong - although missing the most conclusive ethical argument: that no human being should have the right to control the complete genetic complement of another. It rightly concludes we should say "No" to creating a cloned embryo and allowing it to go on to become a baby. Yet it gives no ethical case to justify creating the same cloned embryo and in effect killing it off for spare parts.

This ultimate aim of the research - to use embryos for such non-reproductive use - raises a profound ethical dilemma. The report only says that it wouldn't change the law very much, and implies that medical possibilities override other considerations. What no one asks is how can it be right to create a cloned embryo, knowing full well you would have to destroy it on ethical grounds to avoid cloning a human?

The HFEA consultation document quotes the Warnock Report that "the human embryo ought to have special status" - restricting embryo use primarily to research on reproduction. If the Government accepts these recommendations, as you want it to, we will de facto have removed the special status. The biggest use, if the proponents are right, will be as sources of spare parts.

We should now begin a nationwide public consultation to find out if as a society - not just the 200 of us who submitted evidence - we agree or disagree with this profound change. Personally, I have my doubts.

A wiseguy's view of the world

BACK IN the roaring, Reaganite Eighties - when trickle-down economics, Bolivian marching powder and Paisley braces were the benchmarks of hip taste - P.J. O'Rourke burst on to the journalistic scene as the consummate popular essayist for those venal times. Smart, smart-arsed and unapologetically libertarian, O'Rourke was that perfect Eighties species: a wiseguy conservative. Or, to be oxymoronic, he was a hip Republican: a term that now seems as preposterous as "funky Mormon", especially since American Republicanism has become a byword for sexual McCarthyism, mean-spiritedness and moral hypocrisy.

Back in the era of "greed is good", O'Rourke's caustic dispatches played to a willing audience of twentysomething supply-siders: the sort of folk who had read their Adam Smith, considered Milton Friedman the ultimate economic guru, and voted twice for Reagan and once for Bush... but



MONDAY BOOK

EAT THE RICH: A TREATISE ON ECONOMICS
BY P.J. O'ROURKE
PICADOR, £16.99

still inhaled. Indeed, his appeal wasn't based simply on his skewed wit, but also on his ability to play the patriotic card without sounding like a bumptious flag-bugger.

His underlying world-view - which could best be described as "America rocks, the rest of the world sucks" - won fans in every beer-guzzling fraternity across the States. Even left-leaning Democrats found themselves amused by O'Rourke's sharp wit and his belief in all-American hedonism. O'Rourke's image was of a right-wing debauchee, whose philosophy was: you can be conservative, but still have fun.

Nowadays, most debauchees would not find the Republican Party hospitable. Neither, you sense, does O'Rourke - who goes to great lengths in *Eat the Rich* to distance himself from the party of Ken Starr and the right-to-lifers. Rather, he makes it clear throughout this amusing, if deeply superficial jaunt around world financial zones that he is an old-fashioned libertarian: a believer in free will, in free markets, in keeping the state out of your bedroom - and in wealth as a Good Thing.

"Wealth is good," he argues. "Wealth is good when a lot of people have it. It's good when a few people have it. This is because money is a tool, nothing more... Rich people are heroes. They don't usually mean to be, but that's their problem, not ours."

Book this man in for tea with Lady Thatcher. Beneath the acerbic bravado beats the heart of a serious fiscal conservative. Without question, *Eat the Rich* will appeal to those folk who know nothing about economic theory, and who never travel. As reportage, these dispatches from, say, Wall Street and Albania (Good Capitalism/Bad Capitalism), or Sweden and Cuba (Good Socialism/Bad Socialism) are noteworthy for their splendid one-liners, and for their lack of depth.

But depth is not what you expect from O'Rourke. Instead you expect jokes, eg his view

of Albania and its "isolated and outlandish communist guerrilla chieftain, Enver Hoxha... by the time Hoxha died in 1985, Albania wasn't on speaking terms with any place but North Korea and maybe the English department at Yale."

I certainly laughed at that line. Just as I laughed at O'Rourke's description of a hideous journey on the Trans-Siberian Express: "If your compartment is on the south side of the train, as mine was, you can use it to bake pies". Just as I laughed at his chapter of basic economic theory: "Economists measure supply and demand with curves on graphs. When the supply curve goes up, the demand curve goes down. But how true is this? Do I get less hungry because I know I have a freezerful of pizza?"

And I also laughed at this anecdote from his Albanian travels: "There was an Albanian family at the next table: handsome young husband,

pretty wife, baby in a stroller, cute four-year-old girl bouncing on her dad's knee. The girl grabbed the cigarette from between her father's lips and tried a puff. Mom and Dad laughed. Dad took the cigarette back. Then he pulled a pack of Marlboros from his shirt pocket, offered a fresh cigarette to the little girl, and gave her a light."

In short, *Eat the Rich* is fun as long as you focus on O'Rourke's punchy wit and sardonic brio. But as a populist take on the pre-millennial divide between triumphant capitalism and collapsing socialism, it is thin stuff. You never really sense that he has engaged with any of the territories he is covering (he seems to have met few locals), nor is he particularly good at conjuring up a sense of place with the sort of atmospheric complexity that distinguishes first-rate travel writing.

But O'Rourke really isn't a travel writer. Just as he really isn't an economist. Just as he really isn't a proper political commentator.

So what is he? A wiseguy. Perhaps the cleverest wiseguy de nos jours. And yes, that is a back-handed compliment.

DOUGLAS KENNEDY

The reviewer's latest novel is *'The Job'* (published by Little, Brown)



The market logic of 'greed is good': Michael Douglas in the film 'Wall Street'

MONDAY POEM

POISONED GLEN
BY MOYRA DONALDSON

Hold your breath.
A woman could drown
in these dark loughs,
cold as forever.
Learn how to stop
at the surface,
see no deeper.
It is a kind of courage
to hear only what is said
- I love you -
balanced on liquid tension
like a pond skater.

Beneath, something almost seen,
a fin's flash in the dark weeds.

This poem comes from Moyra Donaldson's first collection, *'Snakeskin Stilettoes'* (Lagan Press, Belfast BT7 1NR, £5.95)



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS: A. Michel, astrologer, Tyché Boulevard IV, France. H. Cleric and James B. Africa, 17 Cochran, Rev. Chas. 1791; Baker, composer.

PRINCESS Northern, attends, Mattee, 80 Street, E. Patron, N. ciation

Max Streibl

THE AMIGO affair sounded like a follow up to one of those American musicals of the 1940s, *Down Argentine Way* or *Brazil*. But it was a much more serious drama played out in southern Germany, not Argentina, and it involved the Minister-President (Prime Minister) of Bavaria, Max Streibl.

Streibl was forced to resign on 27 May 1993 after allegations that he favoured his "amigo", Burkhard Grob, an aviation entrepreneur, who wanted to get lucrative defence contracts. Streibl had accepted free flights, holidays and visits to the "amigo's" Brazilian ranch. He also used the planes and cars of Bavarian firms for private purposes. Earlier in 1993 the Federal Defence Minister Volker Rühe cancelled orders for the US designed Lapas high-altitude reconnaissance plane, to be built under licence in Bavaria. This was seen as a move linked to the "amigo" scandal.

Max Streibl was born in Oberammergau in 1932 and studied law at the University of Munich. He joined the Bavarian State Chancellery in 1960. Two years later he was elected to the Bavarian parliament. His progress was rapid. He served as Minister for Land Development and Environment from 1970 to 1977 and then as Finance Minister of Bavaria, 1977-88. These were key ministries in this 11-million-strong state, a base for hi-tech industries, home of many banks yet maintaining a strong agricultural sector.

Streibl owed his early success to his position as Secretary-General of the Christian Social Union (CSU) from 1967 to 1971 and to his friendship with Franz Josef Strauss. The CSU is Germany's most successful political party and although it has always had an alliance with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in the rest of Germany, it regards itself as having a distinctive identity. In the Bavarian regional election of 1970 the CSU increased its share of the poll from 48.1 per cent to 56.4 per cent. This absolute majority was maintained to the 1990s. In the German federal elections it was the same story, with the CSU scoring an absolute majority in Bavaria from 1987 onwards. From that date the CSU has led the government in Bavaria.

Streibl was elected Minister-President of Bavaria in 1988 following the death of his predecessor and mentor, Franz Josef Strauss. Yet in some ways his election was a reaction against Strauss. Strauss longed for power in Bonn having held office as Defence Minister and Finance Minister. Driven from national office he sought, as Bavarian Minister-President from 1978, to project himself and his state internationally. He

visited South Africa, Pinochet's Chile and Communist East Germany, irritating Chancellor Kohl in the process. Strauss was the first national (federal) politician to hold this position.

Usually the Minister-President was someone not looking for a role beyond Bavaria. Streibl appeared content to run Bavaria. Strauss had also been CSU leader so the chairmanship of the CSU went, not to Streibl, but Theo Waigel, chairman of the CSU group in the federal parliament, the Bundestag. This reduced the concentration of power within the CSU but emphasised the CSU's continuing interest in a federal role.

Together, Streibl and Waigel faced a potentially dangerous challenge in Bavaria. This came from the party of the so-called Republikaner founded by Bavarian Franz Schönhuber, former deputy editor-in-chief of the Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation, and other disaffected CSU members in 1987. It supported German re-unification and neu-

'We aren't anti-foreigner, but our country has the right, just like any other countries, to keep its own identity'

tralism. It was anti-Nato, anti-EEC, anti-corruption and, above all, against West Germany's "guest workers". It looked like stealing the CSU's thunder with its strong stand on law and order. It struck a chord among a significant number of Germans, by no means all of them extremists, who feared Germany would disappear in a nuclear holocaust, be destroyed by the corruption of its elite or be overrun by foreigners. Streibl and his colleagues were shocked when the Republikaner broke into the West Berlin Parliament in February 1989. After the election he said, "We aren't anti-foreigner, but our country has the right, just like other countries, to keep its own identity."

In an effort to help the CSU, Kohl promoted Waigel to Finance Minister, the third most important cabinet post. Neither Streibl's words of reassurance to more conservative-minded voters nor Waigel's promotion failed to stop Schön-



Resigned as Minister-President of Bavaria in 1993

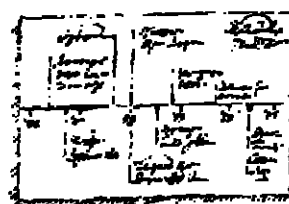
huber and two other Republicans, being elected to the European Parliament later in the year. With a federal election looming in 1990 the CSU was as worried as its sister party, Kohl's CDU.

The situation was transformed within months by Die Wende, the revolt that brought about the end of Communist East Germany and the restoration of German unity. Streibl's CSU sought to have an influence in this direction by backing a new party in the disintegrating East Germany, the German Social Union (DSU), which for a short time appeared a significant party. With Kohl putting his party's weight behind the East German CDU, a former satellite of the Communists, the DSU soon faded. In the first all-German elections of 1990 Kohl's CDU swept back to power and with it Streibl's CSU. The Republicans virtually disappeared. In the regional elections the CSU maintained its absolute majority with 54.9 per cent.

Streibl's political successes attracted the attentions of industrialists and bankers and he was invited to the supervisory boards of several companies such as Bayernwerk AG, Messerschmidt-Bölkow, Rhein-Main Donau AG, Luftansa and so on. He also penned a number of volumes like *Verantwortung für Alle. Die Freiheit fordert jeden* ("Responsibility For All, Freedom Challenges Everyone", 1980). Once the accusations against him started to mount he soon found that his colleagues felt he had failed the challenge which freedom demands. It was a case of *adios amigo!*

DAVID CHILDS

Max Streibl, politician; born Oberammergau, Germany 6 January 1932; Minister-President of Bavaria 1988-93; married 1960 Irmingard Jungmans (two sons, one daughter); died Munich 11 December 1998.



HISTORICAL NOTES

GILLIAN LINSKOTT

A woman's place is in the polling booth

THE DOORS of polling stations opened at eight o'clock on the morning of 14 December 1918, in the general election that followed the ending of the World War. For the first time, women could walk inside and vote - unless they happened to be under 30 years old or living in furnished accommodation. Full equality with male voters didn't come until 1928. In spite of that, there were more than eight million women electors on the register in 1918, and a lot of misgivings among the political establishment about the impact of such a large and unpredictable number of new voters.

Meetings were organised by various bodies all over the country to educate them. At a talk at Hereford town hall on "The New Woman Voter and her Responsibilities" the Bishop of Hereford informed his unenthusiastic audience that he had always regarded female suffrage with deepest misgivings and hoped that women would still stay at home and look after their families. The Liberal Party took a more positive line. Its election advert in *The Times* promised "removal of artificial restrictions on women's opportunities", tactfully not mentioning that a Liberal government had failed to give the women the vote in the bitter years of the suffragette struggle just before the war. The hopeful theory that women would bring a more humane and caring approach

to politics was already surfacing.

On polling day, only 17 of the 1,623 candidates watching anxiously as the people trickled in to cast their votes were women. It had been a scramble for them to stand at all. One of the last acts of the outgoing government, less than a month before polling day, was to give women the chance to be candidates. Some of them leapt at it. The veteran campaigner Charlotte Despard, at 74 years old, put up a brave fight for Labour in Battersea North. In Hendon, the Independent candidate Edith How Martyn set up her committee rooms in a shop selling babies' prams. Another Independent, Mrs Strachey, standing in Chiswick, was delighted to be on the receiving end of some eggs - presented as a gesture of support, not hurled. Eggs were too scarce and expensive after the war to be used as missiles.

One of the few women candidates who seemed to have a fighting chance was Christabel Pankhurst. Immediately war broke out, she and her mother Emmeline had diverted their energies to army recruiting campaigns and stridently patriotic speeches. Emmeline called in the debt by demanding and getting the support of the prime minister, David Lloyd George, for Christabel who stood in Smethwick with policies that largely consisted of taking a firm line against Germans, pacifists, anarchists and Bol-

sheviks. The sight of Emmeline, as reported in the *Daily Mail*, making a speech in support of her daughter while standing on a table in front of a pub must have been one of the livelier memories of what most people agreed was a generally colourless and quiet election. Weariness had set in, both from the war and the fight for the vote. Sylvia Pankhurst reflected the suffragettes' response to their success. "The pageantry and rejoicing, the flaming ardour which in pre-war days would have greeted the victory, were absent when it came."

When the results were announced - two weeks after polling day to allow time for the votes of the troops overseas to be counted - Lloyd George's Coalition government was returned to power as predicted by a large majority. The impact of the women's vote had been less unsettling than many politicians had feared. Only one woman candidate was elected, Countess Markievicz of Sinn Féin, who refused to swear the oath of allegiance so could not take up her seat. Ironically, the first woman to sit in the House of Commons, from a by-election less than a year later, was Nancy Astor, who had an easy ride into a safe Tory seat vacated by her husband on his elevation to the peerage.

Gillian Linscott is the author of *Dance on Blood* (Virago, £5.99)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

CLARK: Bruce Robert Duncan, born 3 October 1924, died 11 December 1998 in intensive care following a heart attack. Funeral arrangements from 0171-834 3281.

Announcements for GAZETTE BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Adding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing (please include a daytime telephone number), are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Susan Lambert, "Masterpieces of Lithography", 3pm. British Museum: Andy Meadows, "Early Monetary Unions: an introduction", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Robert Wenley, "Collectors: Sir Richard Wallace", 1pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire, and visits Collingwood College,

BIRTHDAYS

Captain the Hon Sir Nicholas Beaumont, Director, High Gostorth Park, 69; Miss Jane Birkin, actress, 52; Ms Christine Butler MP, 55; Mrs Ann Cryer MP, 59; General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 86; The Right Rev John Grindrod, former Archbishop of Brisbane, 79; Sir Anthony Kershaw, former MP, 83; Miss Barbara Leigh-Hunt, actress, 63; Mr Thomas McAvoey MP, Comptroller of HM Household, 55; Sir Malcolm McIntosh, chief executive, CSIRO, 53; Mr Charles Morris, former MP and government minister, 72; Sir John Osborn, former MP, 76; Dame Ruth Raitton, founder of the National Youth Orchestra, 63; Miss Janet Scott, actress, 60; Mr Stan Smith, tennis player, 52; Sir Simon Towneley, former Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, 77; Miss Rosalyn Tureck, conductor, lecturer and writer, 84.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Nostradamus (Michel de Nostredame) astrologer and prophet, 1503; Tycho Brahe, astronomer and mathematician, 1546; Henry IV of Navarre, King of France, 1553; Daniel Neal, cleric and historian, 1678; James Bruce, explorer of Africa, 1730; Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald, admiral, 1775; The Rev Charles Wolfe, poet, 1791; Baldassare Gamucci, composer, 1822; Pierre Puvis

de Chavannes, mural painter, 1824; Roger Eliot Fry, painter and critic, 1866; Joseph Jongen, composer, 1873; George VI, King, 1895; Paul Eluard (Eugène Grindel), poet, 1895; King Paul I of the Hellenes, 1901; Kurt von Schuschnigg, Austrian chancellor, 1897; Shirley Jackson, writer, 1919.

Deaths: Sir John Oldcastle, Baron Cobham, hanged and burnt 1417; James V, King of Scotland, 1542; Henry Aldrich, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, composer and architect, 1710; Thomas Rymer, archaeologist, 1713; Thomas Tenison, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1715; Sir William Trumbull, statesman, 1716; Giovanni Battista Cipriani, painter and engraver, 1785; Charles III, King of Spain, 1788; Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, composer, 1788; George Washington, first US President, 1799; Conrad Malte-Brun (Malte Conrad Brun), geographer, 1826; John Claudius Loudon, botanical writer, 1843; George Hamilton Gordon, fourth Earl of Aberdeen, statesman, 1860; Albert, Prince Consort, 1861; Heinrich August Marschner, operatic composer, 1861; George Hudson, the "railway king", 1871; Louis-Jean Rodolphe Agassiz, naturalist, 1873; Richard Redgrave, painter, 1888; Sir Oswald Walters Brierly, marine painter, 1894; Sidonio Bernardino Cardoso da Silva Paes, president of Portugal, assassinated 1918; Maurice Baring, novelist, playwright and poet, 1948; Stanley, first Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, statesman, 1947; Will Fyfe, comedian, 1947; Margaret Kinnan Rawlings,

novelist, 1953; Juno Kusti Paasilkivi, statesman, 1956; Sir Stanley Spencer, painter, 1959; William Bendix, actor, 1964; Walter Lippmann, journalist, 1974; Salvador de Madariaga y Rojo, author and diplomat, 1978; Vicente Aleixandre, poet, 1984; Andrei Dzimbrivich Sakharov, scientist, 1989; Myrna Loy (Katerina Myrna Williams), actress, 1993.

On this day: Mary acceded to the Scottish throne, 1542; Alabama became the 22nd of the United States, 1819; the St James's Theatre, London, opened as the Prince's Theatre, 1835; the first section of the London and Greenwich railway opened, 1836; HMS *Bombay*, 2,782 tons, was destroyed by fire near Montevideo, with the loss of 91 lives, 1864; Max Planck put forward his quantum theory, 1901; Germany put her first U-boat into service at Kiel, 1906; Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole, 1911; Crete was formally annexed to Greece, 1913; Constance, Countess Markievicz (Sinn Féin) became the first woman to be elected to the British parliament, although she did not take her seat, 1914; by a large majority, the Danish people voted to sell the Danish West Indies to the United States, 1916; women in Britain voted for the first time at the general election, 1918; Puccini's opera *Gianni Schicchi* was first performed, Milan, 1918; in Turkey, women were granted the vote, 1934; the League of Nations condemned and expelled the Soviet Union for aggression against Finland, 1939; Archbishop Makarios became the first president of the Republic of Cyprus, 1959.

Today is the Feast Day of Saints Fingar or Gwinnar and Phiala, St John of the Cross, St Nicastus of Rheims, St Spiridon and St Venantius Fortunatus.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Nicholas John Coleman and Mr Jonathan Richard Playford QC, to be circuit judges, on the South Eastern Circuit. Mr John Armitage, Lord Hunt of Wirral, Professor Maxwell Irvine, Miss Patricia Hunt and The Rev Professor E.W. Nicholson, to be Governors of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth. Mr David Madden, to be ambassador to the Hellenic Republic. Mr John Martin, to be British High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus. Mr Rupert Matthew Jackson QC, to be a Justice of the High Court. M Michel Van Doosselaere, immediate past President of the Council of the Bars and Societies of Europe, to be Honorary Master of the Bench of Middle Temple. Mr Nicolas Dusan Bratza QC, to be a Justice of the High Court. Mr Edward Glover, to be British High Commissioner to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. The Right Rev Tim Stevens, Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, to be Bishop of Leicester.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, hand provided by the Coldstream Guards.

CASE SUMMARIES

14 DECEMBER 1998

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Maintenance

Joseph v Joseph; Fam Div (Johnson J) 28 Nov 1998. AN APPLICATION under s 35 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 to vary a deed of maintenance did not abate on the death of the applicant. It would be unjust if the applicant's estate were prevented from seeking a proper adjustment of such a deed by reason of his death. Lady Joseph appeared in person. Florence Baron QC, Stewart Leach (Gordon Dadds) for the applicant.

Education

Ealing Borough Council v White; CA (Butler-Stoss, Ward, Robert Walker LJ) 2 Dec 1998. IN ORDER to stop the re-litigation of issues already decided by a Special Educational Needs Tribunal it was not necessary to invoke issue estoppel, since Parliament had provided the tribunal with a statutory power to strike out proceedings under reg 36 of the Special Educational Tribunal Regulations 1995. John Friel, Deborah Hay (Council Solicitors) for the appellants; Prentley Baxendale QC, Nicholas Bowen (Teacher Stern Selby) for the respondent.

Housing

Kingston upon Thames Royal London Borough Council v Prince and anor; CA (Roch LJ, Hale J) 2 Dec 1998. A MINOR could succeed to the actual tenancy held by a deceased secure tenant under the Housing Act 1985. Housing legislation might include an equitable tenancy without catering for it expressly. The mo-

dern tendency of the law was to recognise that children were not "non-persons" in the eyes of the law, and, unless the contrary was expressly stated, it could not be assumed that they were omitted from legislation. Kim Lewison QC, Kelvin Rulledge (Council Solicitors) for the appellants; James Goudie QC, Zia Nabi (Keppe Shaw) for the respondents.

Practice

Venables v MGN Ltd and anor; CA (Beldam, Otton, Mantell LJ) 2 Dec 1998. THE QUALIFICATION or gloss which could be placed on s 92(1) of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1948, i.e. that a notice to quit served under that section had to be left in a manner in which a reasonable person, minded to bring the document to the attention of the person to whom the notice was addressed, would adopt, applied equally to service on a company under s 725 of the Companies Act 1985. Richard Parkes (John Bonaden Turner & Co) for the plaintiffs; Michael Crane QC, Michael Sullivan (Daventry Lyons) for the defendants.

VAT

Elias Gale Racing v Comms of Customs and Excise; QBD (Crown Office List) (Carrawath J) 2 Dec 1998. A VAT tribunal had power to make a direction under s 84(5) of the Value Added Tax Act 1984 to increase an assessment to VAT, the only criterion for the exercise of the power being that the tribunal had found that the amount in the assessment was less than it ought to have been. That was sufficient to include any error, whether of law or fact, and was not limited to mathematical errors. The power was, how-

ever, likely to be rarely used, and only with adequate notice. Marion Lonsdale (Salisbury Robinson and Turner, Leicester) for the appellants; Hugo Keith (Solt for C&E) for the Commissioners.

Costs

Robin v Douglas; CA (Roch, Swinton Thomas and Schiemann LJ) 3 Dec 1998.

WHERE THERE was an issue as to causation in a personal injury action, a defendant was not required to make a payment into court in order to protect himself in costs, but might make an offer under RSC Ord 22 r 14(1). The court then had to take the offer into account under Ord 62 r 9(1). An offer made under Ord 22 r 14(1) should be one which disposed of the proceedings or an issue in the proceedings. Raymond Mitchell QC, Mark Turner QC (Lace Mavers) for the appellants; Kenneth Hamer, Toby Riley-Smith (Collins) for the respondent.

Insurance

Re Friends Provident Linked Life Assurance Ltd; Ch Div (Neuberger J) 4 Dec 1998. THE REFERENCE to "long-term business" in para 1(1) of Sch 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982 applied equally to reinsurance business as it did to insurance business where all or part of the risk undertaken by an insurer under a contract which constituted "long-term business" was laid off under the reinsurance contract. An arrangement which was in reality a surrender or cancellation of an insurance policy should not, however, be treated as if it were a transfer of business. Robin Hollington (Friends Provident Life Office) for the petitioner.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
flowage, n.

ALWAYS EXPECT the unexpected. This is a sound rule. Even so, I hardly guessed that a stout parcel I received in the post would contain Katherine Barber's new *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*. That land-mass has long been a by-word for jokes about dullness (Oxford once published *Canadian Mil-*

dianisms is the word 'kick' instead of 'thrill'. Seventy years on, and this dictionary is hardly chockablock with the wild mintings upon which the press release dwells (Molson's muscle: beer-belly; dippy-doodle: evasion), but things emerge, such as a use of flowage not in the OED: a shallow pond.

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COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGED A JOINT
OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE A SAFE
HAVEN FOR THOSE FLEEING TORTURE,
PERSECUTION AND DEATH.
BRITAIN WAS ONE OF THE FIRST
COUNTRIES TO SIGN UP. HONOURING A
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Continues
and help - groups
are spreading up
every day - in
everywhere.
B. Matt Jones

A

Open

LAST WEEK marked a few more
milestones on the Road Ahead
Without Limits. The recently
released Linux Office Suite
www.openoffice.org is the first
complete, open source office
productivity package based on
open source code that can
compete with Windows. It
delivers excellent performance
on spreadsheets, word processing,
presentations, graphics, databases,
programs and various other
exciting goodies.
The beauty of it is that the
source code to the software is
free, and you are welcome to
improve on it and distribute
these improvements to your
friends and other people seeking
Bill-Gates-free screens.
Linux, the operating system
that is supported by a
community of developers, rather
than a single company, has
finally moved to the level where
your accounts can be complete
and presentations prepared
without the guys from Redmond
getting their usual bounty.
The second important event
of the week was an announcement
from Sun Microsystems.

Stores come in three types – all disagreeable

I WENT into a Toys 'R' Us the other day with my youngest so that he could spend some loot he had come into. (He had gone short on Anaconda Copper against his broker's advice, the little scamp. And, entirely by the way, isn't Toys 'R' Us the most mystifying name of a commercial concern you have ever heard of? What does it mean? I have never understood it. Are they saying they relieve themselves to be toys? Do their executives carry business cards saying "Dick 'R' Me"? And why is the 'R' backwards in the title? Surely not in the hope that it will enhance our admiration? Why, above all, is it that even though there are 37 checkout lanes at every Toys 'R' Us in the world, only one of them is ever open?)

These are important questions, but sadly this is not our theme today, at least not specifically. No, our theme today, as we stand on the brink of the busiest retail week of the year, is shopping. To say that shopping is an important part of American life is like saying that fish appreciate water.

Apart from working, sleeping, watching TV and accumulating fatty tissue, Americans devote

more time to shopping than to any other pastime. Indeed, according to the Travel Industry Association of America, shopping is now the number one holiday activity of Americans. People actually plan their vacations around shopping trips. Hundreds of thousands of people a year travel to Niagara Falls, it transpires, not to see the falls but to wander through its two mega-malls. Soon, if developers in Arizona get their way, holidaymakers will be able to travel to the Grand Canyon and not see it either, for there are plans, if you can believe it, to build a 450,000-square-foot shopping centre by its main entrance.

Shopping these days is not so much a business as a science. There is even now an academic discipline called retail anthropology whose proponents can tell you exactly where, how and why people shop the way they do. They know which proportion of customers will turn right upon entering a store (87 per cent) and how long on average those people will browse before wandering out again (two minutes and 36 seconds). They know the best ways to lure

shoppers into the magic, high-margin depths of the shop (an area known in the trade as "Zone 4") and the layouts, colour schemes and background music that will most effectively hypnotise the unassuming browser into becoming a helpless purchaser. They know everything.

So here is my question. Why, then, is it that I cannot go shopping in America without wanting either to burst into tears or kill someone? For all its science, you see, shopping in this country is no longer a fun experience, if it ever was.

A big part of the problem is the stores. They come in three types, all disagreeable.

First, there are the stores where you can never find anyone to help you. Then there are the stores where you don't want any help, but you are pestered to the brink of madness by a persistent sales assistant, probably working on commission. Finally, there are the stores where, when you ask where anything is, the answer is always "Aisle seven." I don't know why, but that is what they always tell you.

"Where's the women's lingerie?" you ask.



BRYSON'S AMERICA

"Aisle seven."
"Where's the pet food?"
"Aisle seven."
"Where's aisle six?"
"Aisle seven."
My least favourite of all store types is the one where you can't get rid of the sales assistant. Usually these are department stores at big malls. The sales assistant is always a white-haired lady working in the menswear department. "Can I help you find anything?" she says. "No thank you, I'm just browsing," you tell her. "OK," she replies, and gives you a smarmy smile that says: "I don't really like you; I'm just required to smile at everyone."

So you wander round the department and at some point you idly finger a sweater. You don't know why because you don't like it, but you touch it anyway.

In an instant, the sales assistant is with you. "That's one of our most popular lines," she says. "Would you like to try it on?"

"No, thank you."
"Go ahead, try it on. It's you."
"No, I really don't think so."
"The changing rooms are just there."
"I really don't want to try it on."
"What's your size?"
"Please understand, I don't want to try it on. I'm just browsing."
She gives you another smile – her withdrawing smile – but 30 seconds later she is back, bearing another sweater. "We have it in peach," she announces. "I don't want that sweater. In any colour."
"How about a nice tie, then?"
"I don't want a tie. I don't want a sweater. I don't want anything. My wife is having her legs waxed and told me to wait for her here. I wish she hadn't, but she did. She could be hours and I still

won't want anything, so please don't ask me any more questions. Please."
"Then how are you off for pants?"
Do you see what I mean? It becomes a choice between tears and manslaughter. The irony is that when you actually require assistance there is never anyone around.

At Toys 'R' Us my son wanted a Star Troopers Intergalactic Cosmic Death Blaster, or some such piece of plastic mayhem. We couldn't find one anywhere, nor could we find anyone to guide us. The store appeared to be in the sole charge of a 16-year-old boy at the single active checkout till. He had a queue of about two dozen people, which he was processing very slowly and methodically.

Patient queuing is not one of my advanced social skills, particularly when I am queuing simply to acquire information. The line moved with painful slowness. At one point the young man took 10 minutes to change a till roll, and I nearly killed him then. At last my turn came. "Where's the Star Troopers Intergalactic Cosmic Death Blaster?" I said.

"Aisle seven," he replied without looking up. I stared at the top of his head. "Don't trifle with me," I said. He looked up. "Excuse me?" "You people always say 'Aisle seven.'"

There must have been something in my look because his answer came out as a kind of whimper. "But, mister, it is aisle seven – Toys of Violence and Aggression."
"It'd better be," I said darkly and departed.

Ninety minutes later we found the Death Blasters in aisle two, but by the time I got back to the till the young man had gone off duty. The Death Blaster is wonderful, by the way. It fires those rubber-cupped darts that stick to the victim's forehead – not painful, but certainly startling. My son was disappointed, of course, that I wouldn't let him have it, but you see I need it for when I go shopping.

Extracted from 'Notes from a Big Country' by Bill Bryson, published by Doubleday at £16.99. Available from all major bookshops, and by mail order on 01624 673137

Long-distance love



'James's life is kind of unnatural,' says Marie of her husband, who is fed up with living in London. 'I don't like living away from home,' he says

John Voos

Mare Boyle

I cope much better than James does with a long-distance relationship – but then, I've all the support of home, my own things around me, my own friends: it's a much more natural situation. And in fact sometimes, when you're working full time, it's quite nice to have a weekend to yourself. I can get to Glasgow to see my parents, for example, without feeling that I'm intruding on the time James and I have together.

We've lived this kind of life for about two years now. The decision was quite easy. For a start, I was in a full-time job I really liked, and I didn't want to leave it. For nearly 15 years I've worked in a language unit at a school in Edinburgh; it's for children who have various kinds of language and communications disorders.

When James's latest job came up we'd already moved several times for his career. Some years ago we went from Glasgow to Guildford. Then, when we went back to Scotland, it was to Edinburgh. We'd moved our three boys to new schools three times. This time we decided that the boys and I would stay put.

Had the children been younger, we might have considered moving again, but not at this late stage. I felt that, having left family and friends behind, we were to be exiled to do it again. The boys are older now, of course, but one of them is still at home and another has returned. He was at university in Glasgow but he's come home. The two of them are in and out of the house.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

When James Boyle became Controller of Radio 4 nearly three years ago, he and his wife Marie took the decision to have a long-distance relationship: James would live in London during the week, and Marie would continue to live and work in Edinburgh. The couple have been married for 29 years, and have three sons

James and I try to meet every weekend, either here in London or, more often, in Scotland. We always try to do something special on Friday nights – dinner out, or the theatre – because Fridays can be tricky while you readjust: you're longing to be together, but you're both tired.

In recent months it's been more fraught for James and he's not been able to get home as often as he'd have liked. There have been a couple of weekends when he's not managed to get away at all, so that it's been two or three weeks before we've seen each other. And when he is home, the mobile phone keeps ringing. I do find that very disruptive.

James's life is kind of unnatural. He doesn't like his flat – he keeps saying he's got to move – but he never has time to look for another place. He's quite a homey person and I do worry about not being there to support him, especially when Radio 4 is under attack. In fact, when that happened last, when the Rajar figures came out, it was during my half-term week in October and we had to cancel our holiday in Madrid. I went down to London anyway, and was in the office for a lot

of that week. It was good to see the support he got, and a lot of people came and spoke to me and gave me some comfort. But I know he finds it very stressful. On the other hand, he's quite good at being alone in these circumstances. In some ways, I think it's the way he prefers to deal with things. We phone each other every day, and in the long run he doesn't let it get him down. He does bounce back.

This last weekend, James came up to give a lecture at Edinburgh University on Saturday, then we both went south for a big Asian festival at the NEC at Birmingham in the evening. Then it was back to London for the recording of the annual Radio 1 pantomime. I'll be on the first plane home tomorrow. My son will meet me at the airport and I'll go straight into school. The only problem I can foresee is that I'll be tired for a day or two.

James Boyle
I don't like living away from home. It's been nearly three years now and it doesn't get any better. I'm losing my tolerance for this way of life. I'm totally worn out, totally unfit – never get out into the fresh air. Only

this morning we came home – or rather, back to my London flat – and the burglar alarms were screaming from the shops around the place. I hate it. The trouble is that I'm not theoretical about dealing with it at all. I'm so completely oriented towards my work. I say to myself, every day, "I must deal with this; I must get out more." In fact, I bought myself a pair of track-suit bottoms – I had visions of myself jogging around Grosvenor Square – but I'm the least sporty person in the world. The best I've done is to wear them to go downstairs and open the front door to put the bins out.

The difficult thing is that we get so few windows to take holidays, because we can only go away in the school breaks. I certainly get very tired. I did feel the loss of that October holiday. We shan't get another chance now until April. My staff have been telling me to take every other Friday off and I suppose if they push me out of the door I might. I'm hopeless otherwise.

Perhaps there are some good things to come of not living at home. One of my sons has always complained that I'm very hard to talk to.

Well, he came into the office about a month ago and one of the girls was talking to him and she said, "I was quite frightened coming here but it was OK because I spoke to your dad and he's so easy to talk to", and she walked away. He came straight up to me and said he couldn't believe his ears.

And it did make me think. If there's one good thing about all this it is that it gave me a sense of perspective about him. I got away from all the classic father things – clean up your room, do this, do that – and I began to get a bit calmer, because I saw him so little and I wanted to do it better. It did make me stop short and think, well, I've got to stop being a grouch when I get home.

And you see, I always was very home-oriented, completely unadventurous. That is why I liked Radio 4 so much. I was your ideal housewife. I have listened to the radio incessantly, all my life; I used to write letters to the broadcasters. I wrote to Tony Hancock when I was a kid. When I was interviewed for this job, people thought all that was a pose, but it wasn't. It was true.

I'm very proud of Marie. In effect, her job is a greater rarity than mine. There are plenty of BBC controllers but only a handful of people – anywhere – with her skills. Personally, I've always kept a clear line between work and home, and I know that it upsets Marie that I don't talk about it. Marie, you do know that I work for the BBC, don't you?

INTERVIEW BY
SUE GAISFORD

INFORMATION UNLIMITED

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID
HEARTACHE

NO.18 DEPRESSION

The facts

■ 4 million people suffer from depression in this country at any one time – 1.5 million of them would be categorised as suffering from mild depression
■ 1 in 4 people suffers from a depressive illness at some point in their life
■ Calls to helplines for depression double during the month of January
■ The annual cost of UK depression in 1995 was £2bn – £500m for medication, £4bn for sickness, £3.5bn for lost production
■ Depression is known as the "common cold" of psychiatry as it is the most commonly encountered mental illness
■ Doctors don't have specific laboratory tests for depression, so their diagnoses are primarily based on the patient's behaviour and symptoms
■ Depression can be treated effectively in 90 per cent of cases

The facts

If three or more of these symptoms are experienced for more than two weeks it may be advisable to consult a doctor. This list may not be exhaustive.
■ Sadness, lack of energy, flat moods, extreme mood swings, thoughts of suicide, feelings of pessimism, paranoia
■ Guilt, low self-esteem
■ Lack of motivation and decrease in concentration
■ Palpitations, diarrhoea or constipation, worrying disproportionately, panic attacks, loss of interest in sex and food, weight loss or gain, loss of periods in women, sweating, insomnia

Diagnosis and treatment

Up to 40 per cent of people suffering from depression first visit their doctor for treatment of a secondary symptom such as headaches or weight loss. From there, the doctor has to detect depression as the cause of the symptom, then identify the underlying cause of the depression. Treatments may include medication, counselling, talking treatments and self-help.

Possible underlying causes of depression

■ Relationship problems, bereavement, redundancy, financial pressures
■ Low self-esteem, difficult childhood, anxiety
■ Illness, infection, surgery
■ Childbirth
■ Loneliness
■ Alcohol, drugs or food addictions
■ Side-effects of medication
■ Excessive caffeine intake
■ Vitamin and mineral deficiencies

Talking treatments

■ Psychotherapy – the patient uses the therapist as a way of working out and resolving patterns of behaviour
■ Counselling – the therapist reflects back what the patient has said to help them analyse their thoughts. Call the British Association of Counselling – 01788 578328
■ Behavioural Therapy – recognises damaging behavioural patterns and encourages more appropriate behaviour
■ Cognitive Therapy – aims to change feelings of low self-esteem
■ Family Therapy – offers advice on improving family interactions

Medical treatments

Antidepressants correct the imbalance in the chemical make up of the brain which causes the depression. They are not addictive and are often used in addition to therapy and counselling. Patients sometimes need to take several medications simultaneously.

Self-help

■ Don't be afraid to ask for help
■ Try and understand your illness by reading as much as you can about it
■ Watch your intake of alcohol carefully
■ Exercise and eat a healthy and regular diet
■ Take vitamin and mineral supplements
■ Confide in a friend or relative about your illness.
■ Explore complementary therapies such as yoga, acupuncture and reflexology
■ Call the Depression Alliance for listings of self-help groups – 0171-633 9829 and get their special leaflet *Beating Depression at Christmas* for 40p

Other types of depression

■ People with manic depression suffer from dramatic mood swings. Call: Manic Depression Fellowship – 0181-974 6550
■ Postnatal depression occurs after giving birth as a result of hormonal changes and/or the pressure of increased responsibilities
■ Seasonal Affective Disorder affects the level of melatonin in the body and is more common in winter. Contact SADA – 01903 814942

Help

Mind – The National Association for Mental Health – 0181-519 2122
Samaritans – 0345 909090
SANEline – 0345 678000
Compiled by the authors of 'Women Unlimited: The Directory for Life', published by Penguin, price £9.99

English culture woz 'ere

Shakespeare is a 'good brand'. As are Elgar and Holst. How best then to market our great artists? With shrines, of course. By John Morrish

The humble origins and lowly birthplace of Jesus have always been among the most appealing aspects of the Christian story. But birthplaces play a central part, too, in the cult of the creative artist. Britain has a number of birthplace museums and all of them must strike a balance between the interests of the many, who want information and entertainment, and the few, for whom it is almost enough just to be there.

The contrast is intense in the case of the Shakespeare birthplace at Stratford-upon-Avon, which receives an average of 2,000 visitors a day, bringing in more than £2m a year and supporting some 270 full- and part-time staff. This is nothing new. People have been visiting the three-storey timbered house in Henley Street since the 17th century. In 1759, it was an attraction on the town map, and in the early part of the 19th century was visited by Sir Walter Scott, Longfellow, Hawthorne, Melville, Cobden and many more. When the last private owner died, in 1847, the house, by then a pub and a butcher's shop, was auctioned as a business opportunity. The agents boasted that it received 7,000 Shakespeare enthusiasts every year. A bid from PT Barnum, the circus operator, was narrowly beaten by the forerunners of today's Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

What brings people to Stratford? According to Nicolas Walsh, estates and tourism manager, "We can identify a number of people who come because it's the culmination of a lifetime's ambition, and are passionate for knowledge."

"It's a very moving moment," he says. "There can be one or two

tears with that, and it's lovely to be able to offer that. And then - crash - in will come 50 in a coach tour of 'Windsor, Stratford and the Cotswolds in a day'."

"There are conflicts," he says, judiciously. The coach tours bring in admission fees upon which the trust depends, but such visitors neither browse in the giftshops nor patronise the town's restaurants. Their timetable does not allow it. Even the 15 minutes or so it takes to pass through the birthplace museum, before entering the house, is too long for the coach operators. Walsh has recently started allowing them straight into the house.

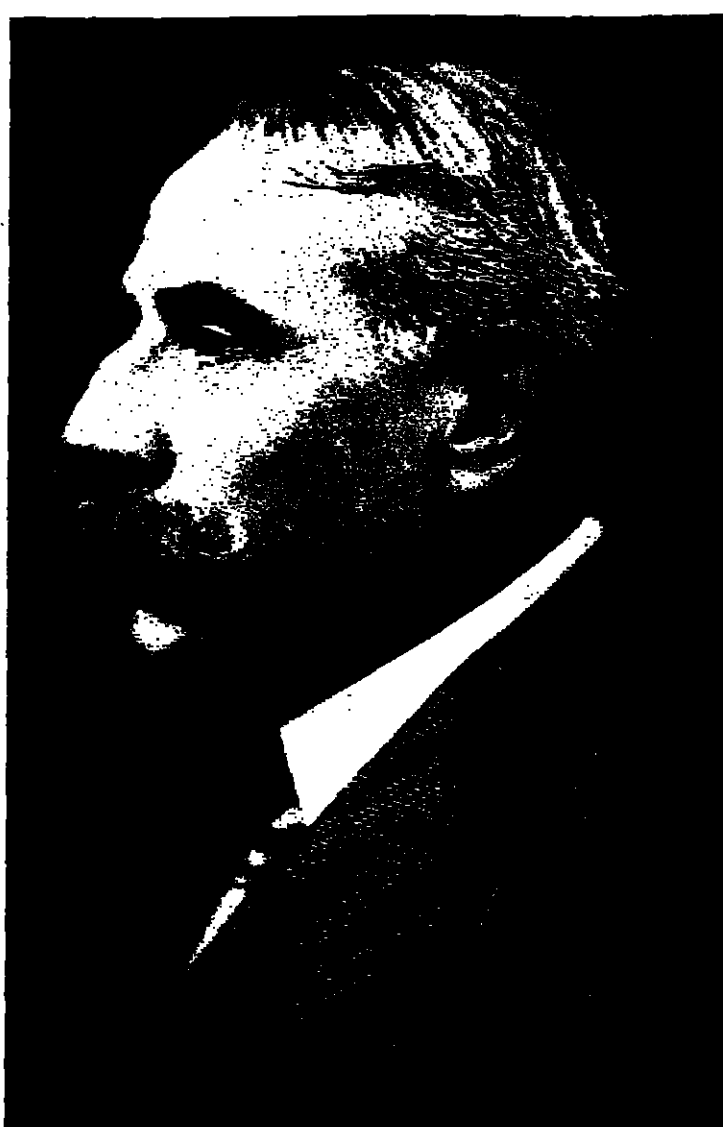
Inside the birthplace, guides supply all the information. And while they cater for all levels of knowledge, there is no doubt that they warm to the real enthusiasts.

"We had one Japanese gentleman last summer who was in tears," says Val Batchelor, who has been a guide for four years. "He was in his late sixties or early seventies, and he taught in a university in Tokyo. And he was crying; he had wanted to come for so long. We were both in tears by the end."

More often, the job involves entertaining schoolchildren with accounts of 16th-century toilet arrangements. The most difficult question is also one of the most common: "Where's the toilet?" There isn't one.

At first-floor level is the room in which Shakespeare may have been born. "Did Shakespeare sleep in that crib?" asks a small American lady in a cotton anorak. He did not, she is told. Nor did his parents sleep in the big bed. The furniture may be the right age, but it has no Shakespearean connections.

And the house has changed since



How best to connect with the spirits of Elgar and Shakespeare? Visit them at home, naturally, and then check out the gift shop

Shakespeare's time. The rear extension is 17th century. The Victorian trust tore down neighbouring houses, removed the floor at second-floor level, and painted over the walls, which were apparently inscribed with the names of numerous early visitors. It then installed its library, which is now accommodated in a modern building that is situated alongside the birthplace.

What remains is largely empty, with dark furniture set out sparsely against walls in a brilliant white unknown to the Elizabethans. If its lot is to succeed, the trust plans to fill the void with authentic wall-hangings, rugs, furniture, cutlery and so on. For the first time, there will be an attempt to give a sense of what the house was like to live in.

The idea is to detain the casual visitor without offending those who simply wish to stand and let imagination take over; those whose enthusiasm validates the experience for the rest. But the improvements will make the rooms more crowded and, perhaps, less suitable for mystical communion with the illustrious dead.

"Shakespeare," says Walsh, "is a good brand." Other birthplaces have

a less secure place in the world's affections, including two museums devoted to composers. Some 8,000 people every year visit Edward Elgar's cottage at Broadheath, near Worcester, and they are not round-Britain coach trippers. They are British, know who Elgar was, and they come "for the atmosphere and because they feel the spirit of Elgar is still here," according to Melanie Weatherley, the museum's curator.

The museum is a small, pretty cottage, furnished with Elgar's possessions, including his desk. What surprises is the large carpark and a boarded-up brick building behind the cottage, evidence of an attempt to create a significant regional attraction. Built five years ago, after a fundraising appeal, the Elgar Centre has never been finished.

The plan was to build a study centre and attract 20,000 visitors a year. The National Heritage Lottery Fund rejected the idea, leaving the birthplace trust stranded. It has now bid again, with a plan to use scholarly material as an attraction. Elgar the man will continue to be represented in the cottage, while the new building, devoted to Elgar the musician,



will now also include office space and a giftshop. Where the spirit of Elgar will reside is unclear.

But at least Elgar has his place in the pantheon. Gustav Holst remains a marginal figure, and his birthplace museum reflects that. A middle-class terraced house of the 1830s, it sits on a one-way street in the Pittville area of Cheltenham. By 1974, it was a series of run-down bedsits, but the local council had promised Imogen Holst, daughter and keeper of the composer's memory, that it would provide somewhere to house her memorabilia.

When the house came on the market, a group of enthusiasts joined the council to establish a Holst museum. But from the beginning it has had other roles. The council's newly installed conservation officer was able to use the new house to demonstrate how to preserve the town's Regency houses. And it was also equipped as an educational museum of Victorian domestic life. The prize is his second-hand piano, donated by Imogen Holst, and sometimes made available for visitors to play. Now that, for a pilgrim, would represent the authentic birthplace experience.

demonstrate cooking and housework techniques.

But a trickle of Holst pilgrims come from afar, including Japan, many going home laden with CDs and books. This would have horrified Imogen Holst, who opposed both a shop and the playing of recorded music in the house. And a house is what it remains, to the extent that some visitors believe that the attendants are actually in residence.

The museum costs the council £70,000 a year, but it justifies it as part of the outreach services of its museums and library service. There are large boards detailing the life and works of Holst, but the department's limited Holst archives are not kept at the museum, apparently for reasons of space. There is nowhere to sit and study, although you can see a biographical video, on request.

And there is an interesting collection of objects associated with Holst or members of his family. The prize is his second-hand piano, donated by Imogen Holst, and sometimes made available for visitors to play. Now that, for a pilgrim, would represent the authentic birthplace experience.

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1959 the excellent, eccentric painter Sir Stanley Spencer died, leaving behind his visions of Christ preaching and being resurrected at (here he differs slightly from the New Testament) the village of Cookham in Berkshire.

Tomorrow 70 years ago Britain's first TV play, *Box and Cox*, was transmitted to, well, dozens of viewers. The cast of four included a cat, television's first animal performer. The same day in 1928 saw the premiere of *The Jazz Stringer*, featuring "Orace the Armonious" Oum and claiming to be "the first lip-synchronised cartoon".

Wednesday Glenn Miller, without whom Glenn Miller tribute bands would be at something of a loss, disappeared in 1944 on a flight from England to France.

Thursday *A Christmas Carol* was published, in 1843. The world's greatest spooky tale was triggered by a nightmare in which Dickens was visited by his dead sister-in-law - for whom he had harboured more than fraternal feelings.

Friday In 1946 the ashes of *Damon Gutz and Dolls* Runyon were scattered by plane on to his favourite story ground: Broadway.

Saturday In 1937 J.R.R. Tolkien told his publisher he had finished the first chapter of a new story, but was to be 15 years more before he wrote the last paragraph of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Sunday In 1957 Elvis Presley received a fan letter from the US government: his call-up papers. Another bad day for rock was in 1973 when Bobby Darin, whose hits included a razor-sharp version of "Mac the Knife", himself died under the knife, during an open-heart operation.

JONATHAN SALE

To bring you the electro-shock blues

PJ AND Björk. Björk and PJ. The maverick chanteuse stakes is still a two-horse race. If Björk's recent gigs left her typecast as Alice in Wonderland, however, Harvey's on-stage persona seems a little more difficult to second-guess. On 1995's *Bring Me the News* tour, Polly Jean vamped it up in shocking pink, whilst baring false eyelashes that your average pantomime dame would have thought garish. Tonight, she went for a slightly scatty, girl-next-door look. As she explained to *The Big Issue* recently: "It's no longer about performing. It's about being."

Perhaps the reason that PJ is finding it easier to be herself lately is because she has had ample opportunity to be someone else. In a new short film by the actress Sarah Miles, she plays a bunny girl, while in Hal Hartley's *The Book Of Life*, she plays Mary Magdalene. She has also recently found the time to exhibit her sculpture around the country. It is a busy schedule, but you can be

POP
PJ HARVEY
COLSTON HALL
BRISTOL

assured that as a result, her day job has not suffered.

Material from the new album, *Is This Desire?*, formed the backbone of tonight's set. Tracks like "A Perfect Day Elise" and "Electric Light" demonstrated how Harvey's neo-gothic sound has been stripped-down, tastefully abused with electronics, and re-booted. The resulting hybrid might be described as a kind of "electro-shock blues". It's intense, potent and stark.

As with Shirley Manson of Garbage, Harvey's the focal point of a band whose doddery male members are musically indispensable, but less than striking. Visually, she needed no support, though. Her odd, slightly androgynous dance-moves were arresting, and if you were close enough to see those big green eyes and that

lop-sided grin, you were soon in her grip. "I'm warning you that I've got a cold and there's no telling when the phlegm will appear," she sassed at one point. There was no trace of that bug in her voice, though. "Meet Ze Monsta" found the swampy rasp of her lower range kicking in with it's usual gusto, and on the sinister, almost funeral-sounding "Catherine", her phrasing and intonation were flawless.

Harvey has often been described as a Nick Cave (& The Bad Seeds) wannabe, but though her former beau is still an obvious influence on her lyrical style, she is increasingly proving herself to be her own goth. Tonight, she proved that hers is a world in which Frankenstein's laboratory is one of all mod cons. She and her cohorts are pioneering a sound which is classic yet cliché-free.

JAMES MCNAIR

A version of this review appeared in the later editions of *Saturday's paper*.



Polly Harvey: intense, potent and stark as usual

Barbara Euripidou

A conductor's life on the ocean wave

A CONCERT of sea-music, without *La Mer*? Very possible, says the conductor Sakari Orano, whose forays into the English repertoire are winning him new friends in Birmingham - where the Finn stepped into Simon Rattle's shoes earlier this autumn.

Last month Orano was making waves with Bax's *Tintagel*; Elgar and Frank Bridge have just followed. It's surely just a matter of time before Bantock (another Birmingham resident), Holbrooke and Rutland Boughton (Bax's most avid fellow-Arthurian) follow.

True, there was some paddling in Orano's watery soiree. The strings seemed oddly at sea at the launch of Mendelssohn's *Hebrides* overture; waves that should lap eddied, and at times the balance muddled. Yet the CBSO woodwind showed off the orchestra consistently at its best; clarinets and paired flutes, surging above soupy strings, or scudding like fireflies amid the textures, brought a metronome precision. The woodwind chorus in "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage" was a marvel, just as the CBSO brass dazzled in the descending furries of Britten's *Four Sea Interludes*, nicely approached by Orano, whose gamblers slow pacing of No 3 ("Moonlight") overtly paid off.

The CBSO strings struck out with more élan in the forcible tutti, and in some exposed passages; fine breast-stroke from the double basses and forward-placed cellos, and an exquisite surging passage for violas in the opening to Bridge's *The Sea*, a massive, four-movement tone poem, akin as much to Scriabin as to Debussy; a gripping, tartly argued masterpiece from that fertile era just before the First World War. A superb CBSO team effort, well worth EMI

CLASSICAL
SEA MUSIC: CBSO/LSO
SYMPHONY HALL
BIRMINGHAM

recording. The mezzo-soprano Fredrika Brillembourg brought a heroic textual memory to Elgar's *Sea Pictures*, and a charming, if slightly didactic, delivery - albeit shorn of the subtle rubati that can make even limp Victorianism bloom. Aqueous Elgar cries out for more bosom.

Earlier in the week, amazingly, Symphony Hall had its first taste of Sir Colin Davis. Elgar again was the fare, and the evening was electric. With the opening bars the LSO's meticulously short-bowed string precision gave Dresden, Berlin and Chicago all a run for their money. The scherzo from Mendelssohn's *Octet* emerged exactly as marked - *leggierissimo* - and even though 60 strings were beavering away, it still sounded like chamber music.

The LSO's Leningrad-born leader, Alexander Barantsev, and superbly empathic principal cello, Tim Hugh, were the soloists in Brahms's last-flowering *Double Concerto*. Chalk and cheese, the other earnest and responsive, an apt dialogue, if you go with the story that the two instruments ape the recently reconciled Brahms and Joachim.

And Elgar's First Symphony had the audience on the edge of its seats. Davis's way of playing the long waiting game - his handling of organic growth, his slow ratcheting up of dynamic beat - ranks in a class of its own. The wisdom of old age, you might say - except that three decades ago the young Davis could do just that. He thrilled them, and he still does now.

RODERIC DUNNET

Having a laugh with rhyme and reason

WHAT'S THE best way of putting down a writer of funny poems? By calling him a practitioner of light verse. That word "light" suggests that a poem can't be both funny and serious at the same time, that "light verse" is, by its very definition, a slightly inferior breed of poem for two quite distinct reasons: its emotional gravity and the fact that it is "verse" and not poetry. Verse is mechanical, poetry is inspired.

The phrase also skillfully disguises the fact that much funny writing is often written out of a kind of despair. Think of that terribly sad and lonely Mr Lear, for example. And how

light is despair, for God's sake - if there is (sob, sob), a God? But what exactly makes funny poems funny? At the South Bank this week, two of the best writers of funny poetry, Kit Wright, a beanpole of a man from Kent, and Sophie Hannah, a much shorter girl-next-doorish sort of girl from Moss Side, Manchester, were making us laugh with poetry which was neither light nor mechanical.

One thing that these two poets had in common was a very strict approach to form. Funny poems, generally speaking, are not written in free verse. There has to be a strict

POETRY

KIT WRIGHT/
SOPHIE HANNAH
SBC, LONDON

rhyme scheme, and a strict formal shape for the humour to play off against. Such formal robustness gives the poems a sledge-hammering directness of attack.

Both poets were lovers of the 17th-century devotional poet George Herbert, for example, a man who devised the most intricate formal shapes within which to express the dramatic inward struggles between the compulsions of the carnal man

and the yearning of the godly. In a poem called "George Herbert's Other Self in Africa", Wright turns Herbert's characteristic stance on its head. The tortured narrator is now an atheist who gets tempted into belief, but who manages to resist the blandishments of religion all the same. At the poem's end, he remains as sternly godless as ever.

Both poets had not been born a comic poet, the muses would surely have had to invent someone who looked and sounded exactly like him in order to demonstrate the type. His voice seems continuously to undergo slight changes - as

if he makes a habit of chewing the words up in his mouth before they get spat out. If they've been chewed for too long, they come out clipped and short. If they've been chewed once only, they are likely to be bigger, wider, and more around. Sometimes he sounds like an old-time English hop-farmer; moments later, the vowels come out all flat and Northern. Then, all of a sudden, he turns into a harrumphing colonel type - until, that is, he modulates further, into a slightly over-fussy and embarrassed public schoolboy.

And always, standing before you, there is this giant of a man

with a blaze of snow-white hair, who stretches the microphone flex up and up to its farthest limit, and still he's leaning down to reach.

Sophie Hannah makes the best of her poems, which also show an unashamedly strict fidelity to rhyme and formal shape, out of the weird comedy of fractured relationships, the incongruous behavioural patterns of real people in contention with each other.

They both proved that funny poetry of this kind has an important role to play in our lives: the saving of sanity by the absorption of a joke.

MICHAEL GLOVER

How to make a better viewer

In the second part of our week-long series on the culture of criticism, we consider what it means to be a television critic. What is the TV critic's role? What is his relationship with his subject? And what, ultimately, is his objective? By Thomas Sutcliffe

There are, in the human gut, numerous types of bacteria, an alien intestinal flora that has made a niche for itself in this dank, warm and fecund environment - a place where nutrition is all-encompassing and unavoidable, a kind of gastric weather. Little effort is required on the part of these organisms to secure their nourishment and they are completely, helplessly, dependent on this inside-out cornucopia for their continued existence.

Television critics are rather like those bacteria. Where the theatre critic or the art critic have to roam abroad to find their sustenance, television critics usually sit at home, taking what they need from the steady stream of fresh videos, arriving in peristaltic waves by courier and postman. And one of the things that is most conspicuous about this arrangement is the marked discrepancy of investment. Someone may have spent eight arduous months making a documentary, braving tropical disease and typhoons to do it, but for the television critic that odyssey may well be reduced to a morning's work.

This inalienable discrepancy of investment is the feature of criticism which causes most resentment and dismay for artists, and it is true that it is often a cruel disjunction. But it is also an unavoidable one - partly because it reflects the even greater cruelty of the viewer's perspective, but also because it takes less time accurately to point out faults than to create them in the first place. This has sometimes created a prejudice in favour of the original exertion, but it is an entirely false one: it would be absurd to value Michael Winner more than Pauline Kael because at least he "had a go", and because it is undeniably more difficult to finance and produce a motion picture than it is to file copy to a magazine that treasures you. If I were given a choice between saving *Death Wish* for posterity or saving Kael's review of the same film, I wouldn't need a second to decide.

Such discrepancy of investment is also a feature of most parasitic arrangements, of course, and this preamble is just another way of acknowledging that all critics are parasites, of one kind or another. Naturally they are - it hardly needs debating, really. The interesting question, though, is not whether critics are parasites or not, but what kind of parasites they are. For many artists this question is relatively easily answered; they would argue, I suppose, that the relationship that exists between makers and critics is what is technically known as a parasitoid one - that is, an arrangement in which the parasite eventually kills off the host, often after a long period of slow and cruel debilitation. But there are other ways of thinking about such associations. Biologists also talk about commensalism - an arrangement in which the parasite benefits without

either harming or benefiting the host. There are occasions, from the perspective of the television critic at least, when this seems as good an analogy as any. After all, what television executives wait for anxiously after transmission are not the overnight reviews but the overnight figures. And there are other reasons why television critics may feel less directly implicated in the fortunes of the medium they cover.

They carry less intellectual baggage than some of their colleagues, for one thing, because although the subject has been seized and carried into the academy in recent years, there isn't a long history of intellectual engagement with television. An art critic may well have Ruskin or Herbert Read at his back; a theatre critic, Tynan or even Dr Johnson. The hot breath on the back of a television critic's neck is



most likely to be that of Clive James - the writer who really consolidated the idea that it was the first duty of the television critic to make readers laugh, with writing in which a kind of affectionate contempt was the prevailing tone. The success of this approach was not just to do with James's wit - but the fact that it perfectly matched the assured superiority of the audience in the face of this particular medium.

Television is both promiscuous and domestic - a whore in the living-room. It will turn virtually any trick you want at the touch of a button, and so it is hardly surprising that it is treated with a certain amount of condescension by its audiences. It is protected by none of the ritual deferences that hem other critical subjects around - the need to dress up and go out, to enter a space which is possessed of a sacred hush or an air of communal celebration. That laconic Brooklyn encapsulation of the universal fault-finding instinct - "Everyone's a critic" - is truer of television than it is of any other form precisely because so few people feel inhibited by its dignity or its pretensions.

What's more, the television critic almost always joins a conversation that has already begun, because unlike the case in most other forms of criticism, the review doesn't reach the reader before the thing reviewed. And yet television swims

imperturbably along, apparently as indifferent to critical opinion as the shark is to the desires of the remora attached to its belly.

There is a third model for the unbreakable association of host and parasite, one that might get us a little closer to the truth of the connection between subject and critic in this field - and it is that of obligative mutualism. Biologists use this term to describe associations in which both parties are inextricably knitted together by mutual need - termites have an intestinal protozoan which they require to digest the wood they eat. Without the protozoan, the termite would starve, and without the termite the protozoan would also go hungry. This may seem a little counter-intuitive to the hard-working termites of television, who can be forgiven for thinking that they would suffer no ill-effects if critics were to disappear tomorrow. But, to bend the analogy a little closer to our own particular needs here, what benefits from the arrangement in the long run is less the individual termite itself than the termite mound - that remarkable and complex structure to which the intestinal protozoan makes its own crucial contribution without ever having any conscious ambition to do its bit for termite architecture.

I want to argue that good critics (and there are as many bad ones as there are good artists) can be beneficial parasites - but I don't want to suggest that this operates by any direct regulatory mechanism. Critics aren't referees to which work should be submitted for some incontestable verdict of quality, nor are critics reliable arbiters of truth - the task is too personal and subjective for that, too heavily beset by prejudice and wishful thinking. In any case, critics always owe their first duty to their readers, not to some abstract notion of cultural value. That doesn't mean that the critic is nothing more than a kind of juggling dung beetle, entertaining the crowd by manipulating the productions of others. They do have an effect on the overall culture.

You could put it more bluntly like this. It is not a critic's task to make better art; it is the critic's task to make better audiences. Even this sounds a little too grandiose when written down, to be honest, but still, I think it's broadly true. Critics can't guarantee happiness for individual artists, but they can promote an ecology in which good art finds it easier to survive.

In television reviewing there are some ways in which this happens rather directly - it's unquestionably true that some programmes are broadcast partly because critical approbation exists to offset their limited success in terms of viewing figures. Critical opinion thus provides some balance for the considerable power of numbers, by amplifying the voice of that part of the audience which will never be able to make itself conspicuous through such statistics. Critics can



The doyen: Clive James consolidated the idea that the television reviewer's first duty was to make readers laugh

speak for intensity of value rather than sheer volume.

But good critics should also change the audience, too, by refining their powers of discrimination and making the casual viewer a little less likely to pass over a subtlety or a refinement. In the long run - and it may be a very long run indeed - that is likely to do far more for a

particular medium or an art form than any amount of local cheer-leading for the mediocre, however well intentioned it may be.

I would settle for obligative mutualism, then. Obligative because the human instinct to pass comment is insuppressible. Whenever two or three are gathered together, two will disagree and the third will chip in to

say they are both wrong. The mutualism arises out of the fact that both producer and critic benefit from a culture in which audiences are not just passive recipients of what artists want to tell us and what companies to sell us, but are also questioning and resistant.

The end result is a culture - a termite mound that results from no

single act of will, but from the complex interaction of many different instincts. Critics may well look exploitative, indolent and self-interested. In many cases - even the best - they are. But take them away and the termite mound would suffer.

Tomorrow: Tom Lubbock on visual art criticism

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SYSTEMS LIMITED
T/A MAC SUPPLIES
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Communities and help groups are sprouting up every day - in cyberspace.

By Matt Jones

Around the world, in busy cities, groups of people gather in silence, their fingers tapping away, calming themselves on 21st-century worry beads. They stare, hunched on high chairs, peering into a glow much brighter than the soft light of the room.

These are not new adherents to some pre-millennial cult; they are ordinary people - office workers, schoolchildren and off-duty nurses. You will find them congregating in cybercafés, university computer labs and school classrooms. And, together, perhaps unaware, they are involved in an extraordinary revolution that is shaping the future of the commercial use of the Internet and, perhaps, society itself.

Whiteleys shopping centre in central London has a popular cybercafé squeezed between themed restaurants and a cinema complex. Peer over the shoulders of the clientele. Why are they so engrossed by the glow, happy to leave their cappuccino froth to cool and sink?

Read any Web-hype - in magazines, newspapers or trade journals - and you might expect that these eager, wired citizens to be "surfing" in hope of self-improvement or tracking down virtual bargains - ordering books, buying insurance, booking holidays.

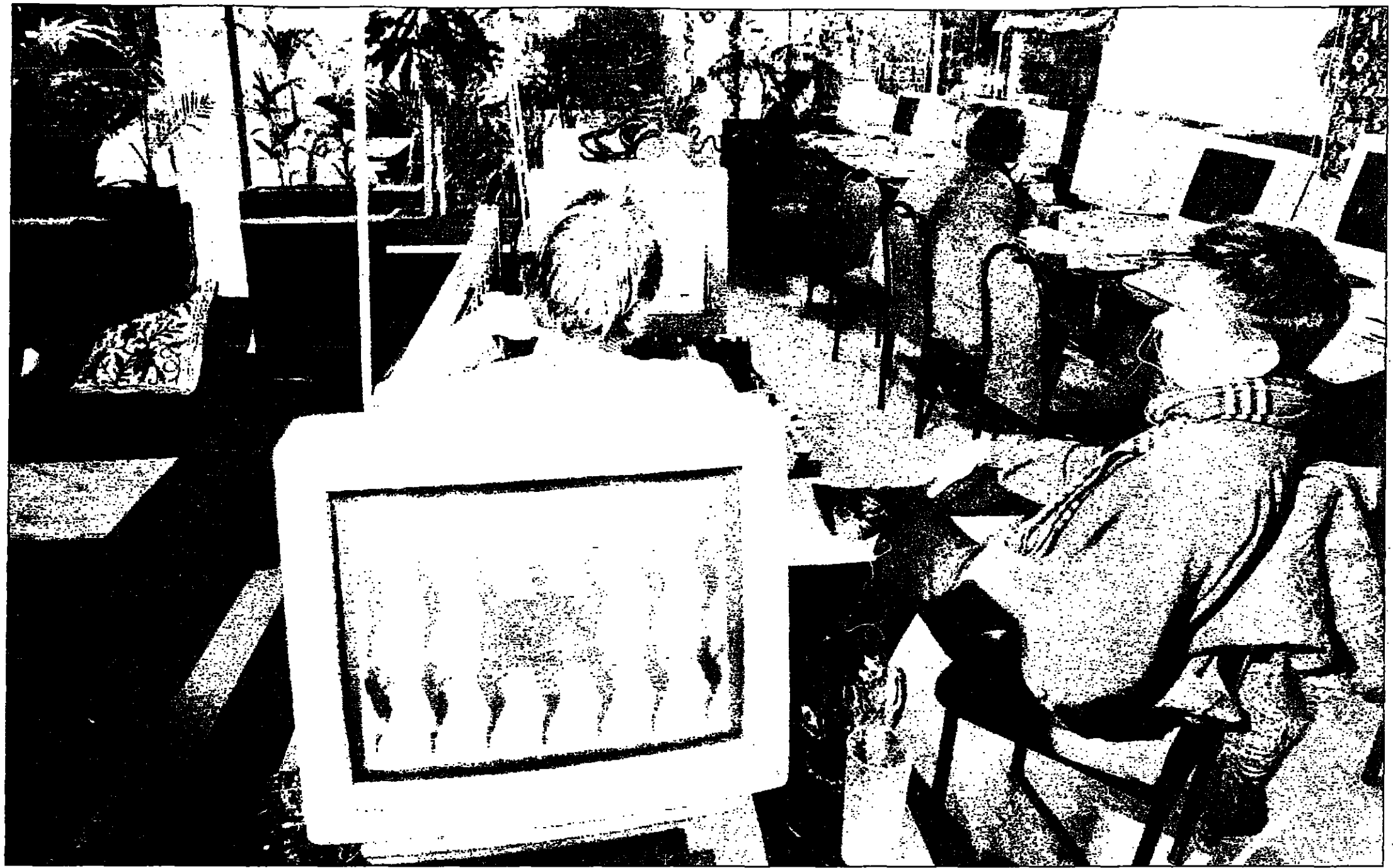
But look more closely. All these people are communicating - getting in touch with other people "out there". E-mails are being sent, bulletin boards are being read and "chat" rooms are noisy with the many-threaded text conversations. Surveys of Internet usage confirm the importance of community and communication. In the most recent GVN poll (April 1998), 94 per cent of respondents rated e-mail as "indispensable" and many said they felt more connected to others through their use of the Internet.

All this time-consuming, simple cyber-communicating seems to be a long way from the shiny, clinical commercial dreams of some major corporations. Where is the "friction-free" capitalism that was promised by Bill Gates?

The friction-free reality of the Net is enough to make some big businesses scale down their Web plans. Nobody has ever made money out of the Web, they say. Some, though, have seen the potential of vast sums if only they can tap into the Web community ethos. Early leaders were the digital companies - such as HotMail and Geocities - which offered free Web-based e-mail and homepage space as long ago as 1995.

The idea was simple: if users get access to a Web browser they could send and receive e-mail. The first subscribers were business travellers and digitally literate tourists. Now, some travel guides devote more space to Internet access than post office locations. It may be a lonely planet, but if there's a cybercafé around the corner, you are not alone. The services had a wider appeal, and subscriber numbers grew rapidly. Today, GeoCities claims 2.8 million users, and HotMail tops this with 9 million.

Free e-mail, though, is old news. What are grabbing the attention of service providers are new, sophisticated services. In August, Excite - a major search engine provider - announced its "Communities" concept. Since mid-September, the services have been available to any-



It's good to tap: cybercafé's patrons get into the global community spirit

AP

There's a caring and sharing cyber-community out there

one. Subscribers (a loose term, as the services are free) are given their own set of Web-based communication tools. Using these, they set up a virtual meeting place - a sort of electronic village hall - and communities are sprouting every day.

"Excite recognised an untapped opportunity on the Web to help groups of users with a common interest - a family, a Cub Scout pack, Beanie Baby collectors - who have no technical skills, to create a unique place to share on the Web," says Joe Klaus, Excite's co-founder.

Members of a "community" connect using any computer with a Web browser. Messages can be exchanged in real time, community messages can be posted on shared noticeboards; and there are even group scheduling capabilities so virtual meetings can be arranged.

Excite started a trend that others have begun to follow. Yahoo announced its "clubs", while other popular sites, such as the Internet bookseller Amazon.com, are exploring the potential of community appeal.

But why are these companies spending so much money on providing free services? Simple: these freebies are user magnets. Web users can choose from millions of websites; by 2003, the number is likely to be around 100 million. Attracting users to your site is a difficult thing to do; community services, though, seem to be doing just that.

Websites with large numbers of loyal visitors can do what every business wants to do on the Web - make money. Yahoo, Excite and others can collect high rents from advertisers for small parts of their Web pages. Community-enabling sites can also lead to carefully targeted audiences using registration information. The price you pay for these "free" services is a little bit of your privacy.

Real world companies - high-street names - also want to be popular. Take Dixons, the consumer electronic retailer. In September, it unveiled FreeServe to provide

loyal visitors can do what every business wants to do on the Web - make money. Yahoo, Excite and others can collect high rents from advertisers for small parts of their Web pages. Community-enabling sites can also lead to carefully targeted audiences using registration information. The price you pay for these "free" services is a little bit of your privacy.

Web communities seem set to transform Web consumerism. But their impact is much more profound. They will change the real communities we live in - for better or worse. Internet-based groups have been around for a long time, but only now are facilities available for

just for members of that family to keep in touch; the Positively Optimistic & Pleasant Group (a "Wellness place for Balance"); and the Rainbow Circle (for those who wish to "reintegrate tribal values", escaping "today's ways", while, ironically, remaining on the Net).

But which of the virtual communities are "good" for real-life society and which may lead to problems? Theologians, psychologists, educationists and law-enforcers have all expressed worries about the most virtual of communities. These are places where users can be any-

inhabit. In the United States, there is a good number of these networks. Residents of small districts use the Net to keep in touch with what's happening in their local area. In the UK, too, enthusiasm is growing. Last year, Microsoft wired up 23 households in a London street, giving them access to a community bulletin board called MSN Street. Today such community spirit is possible without the help from a Microsoft special project team.

On the Net, there are heroic stories of cures found, suicides averted and problems solved by and for people separated by thousands of miles. We, too, we are told, can join this caring global community. But what about the person who lives two doors away? Their needs may go unheard. Geographically based Web communities ground the exciting possibilities of communication in the reality of our everyday lives.

Once upon a time, community life meant jumble sales and sports days. Community in the Internet age is much, much more. We will build up relationships with people all around the world, but as we immerse ourselves in the glow of the new world, let us ensure we do not drown. Let's keep sight of reality, using the Net to make our real lives and communities better.

"With the easy availability of encryption, they can hide everything that they say and think from the rest of us. Once isolated within their communities by the technology itself, their ideas may get increasingly unrealistic and unrelated to the rest of us."

"Community" Nets seem to provide a good balance: harnessing the power of electronic communication to support the real places we

inhabit. In the United States, there is a good number of these networks. Residents of small districts use the Net to keep in touch with what's happening in their local area. In the UK, too, enthusiasm is growing. Last year, Microsoft wired up 23 households in a London street, giving them access to a community bulletin board called MSN Street. Today such community spirit is possible without the help from a Microsoft special project team.

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The writer is senior lecturer in Computing Science at Middlesex University

Users can change genders, take on new personalities and play out fantasy roles - a kind of digital Dungeons And Dragons

Internet access, e-mail and other facilities. All this is free: unlike traditional Internet service providers such as AOL, there are no connection fees and no monthly rental costs. According to Dixons, 450,000 people have signed up already.

The benefits to the user are obvious, but what about the company? The aim is to develop that marketing Holy Grail - a customer relationship. Community facilities are cyber equivalents of the loyalty card. Each time a user returns to the company's site to send an e-mail, chat with friends, or read the noticeboard, they

any group of people to set themselves up easily in cyberspace. The Web communities we decide to build and join will effect our participation in the real world.

So what choice do we have? The possibilities offered by Excite alone seem bewildering. In three months, the Excite directory has grown to hold over 10,000 entries. Already, a wide diversity of interest groups meets, using the Web. Browse through the listings and you'll encounter a mix of ordinary, intriguing and strange communities. There's Todd's Family Community

mous, choosing to be whoever or whatever they wish. Users can change genders (or even species), take on new personalities and play out fantasy roles (a kind of digital Dungeons and Dragons).

Concerns have been voiced over the distortion of reality caused by these places: will participants lose their ability to engage with the physical world? Speaking at a conference on morality and the Information Society, organised by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, argued: "Face-to-face com-

Open source offers the road away from Microsoft

LAST WEEK marked a few more milestones on the Road Ahead Without Microsoft. The recently released Linux Office Suite (www.suse.com) is the first comprehensive office productivity package based on open-source code that can compete with Windows. It delivers powerful performance on spreadsheet, word processor, presentation graphics, database programs and various other exciting goodies.

The beauty of it is that the source code to the software is free, and you are welcome to improve on it and distribute these improvements to your friends and other people seeking Bill Gates-free screens.

Linux, the operating system that is supported by a community of developers, rather than a single company, has finally moved to the level where your accounts can be completed and presentations prepared without the guys from Redmond getting their usual bounty.

The second important event of the week was an announcement from Sun Microsystems,

indicating its intention to include a new version of Linux on its workstations and servers, alongside Solaris, Sun's proprietary operating system. The momentum behind open-source software is moving it to the mission-critical environment where Sun currently operates. It is not just the humble spreadsheets, but large-scale e-commerce, banking and high-traffic websites that will soon be using open-source software.

The road away from Microsoft and proprietary software, and toward open-source code, has been long in the making. The advantages are numerous, mainly because open-source software is subjected to a critical peer review by a collaborating programming community. That process is equivalent to scientific paper peer-evaluation, and generally guarantees faster debugging and higher reliability levels than proprietary software such as Windows.

There is an assumption among many professional software buyers that, because the software was developed by

someone on a salary, it is a product of guaranteed quality. From my many years of working on software teams, it has become clear to me that this is an entirely incorrect line of reasoning. There is nothing less guaranteed than a piece of code developed in a hurry by a tired programmer, who then has to fit that in some mega-application, and think through all the implications of any small change in his code on the whole product. Since code developed for commercial release is inevitably written in a hurry, with commercial pressures never allowing enough time for testing and debugging, the odds on its having high reliability are minimal (see the whole history of Windows development - or rather, on-going debugging).

The example of a successful redevelopment of an open-source application can be found with the new version of Netscape. One of the heroes of the open-source community is Jamie Zawinsky (www.jwz.org), who developed a Unix version of Netscape, and is responsible for overseeing the



EVA PASCOE

Commercial code is often written in a hurry, and the chances of reliability are low

release of the Netscape source code. Jamie is one of the key people on Mozilla (www.mozilla.org), which manages and maintains the dialogue between Netscape and thousands of developers who contribute improvements to the browser. Thanks to the release of the source code, many people were able to add their own 10-pence worth of new functionality, which

should result in taking the browser concept to the next generation of cybertools.

Jamie is a hacker, but a converted one, and his choice of literature (comics) should not be held against him on the day of reckoning, mainly owing to his contribution to moving tightly held proprietary code to the realms of open-source software.

Other examples of successful open-source code development can be found by looking at the Internet key tools. You will notice that most of the key components of the network are based on open source software. Sendmail, developed by another legend, Eric Allman, is the most obscure, but also most useful, electronic e-mail server, and is behind the operations of every single Unix box in the world - and therefore is an engine driving all Internet service providers' e-mail solutions. Perl, another open-source software, is behind all those neat competitions you enter online. Various open-source TCP/IP stacks and utility suites are behind most of the live content on the Web. This is a

stunningly successful set of products, and many companies would kill to gain ownership of the code. Luckily, the community of developers managed to sweat out the products that just kept getting better, providing lots of fun to all involved. Both users and developers of the Internet are acting in a manner similar to a closed feedback loop, where progress is inherent in the generic philosophy of ongoing improvement.

The quality of these products is extremely high, as they endure and survive the Internet's monstrous growth without compromising mission critical requirements. So it was no surprise that one of the top stars of open source, Linux, got PC Magazine's award for technical innovation of the year for the Best Network Operating System.

The typical objections to open source code is usually that a code without an owner is less reliable than the code with an owner. However, that really depends on the owner and his goals, values and integrity. If the owner of the code just wants it

out of the doors making money when still half-baked (as is often the case with real-world rapid development applications), then the reliability of such a code will always be questionable. Those products are mostly only usable from version 3 onwards, at least according to Bill Gates's comments on the reliability of Windows.

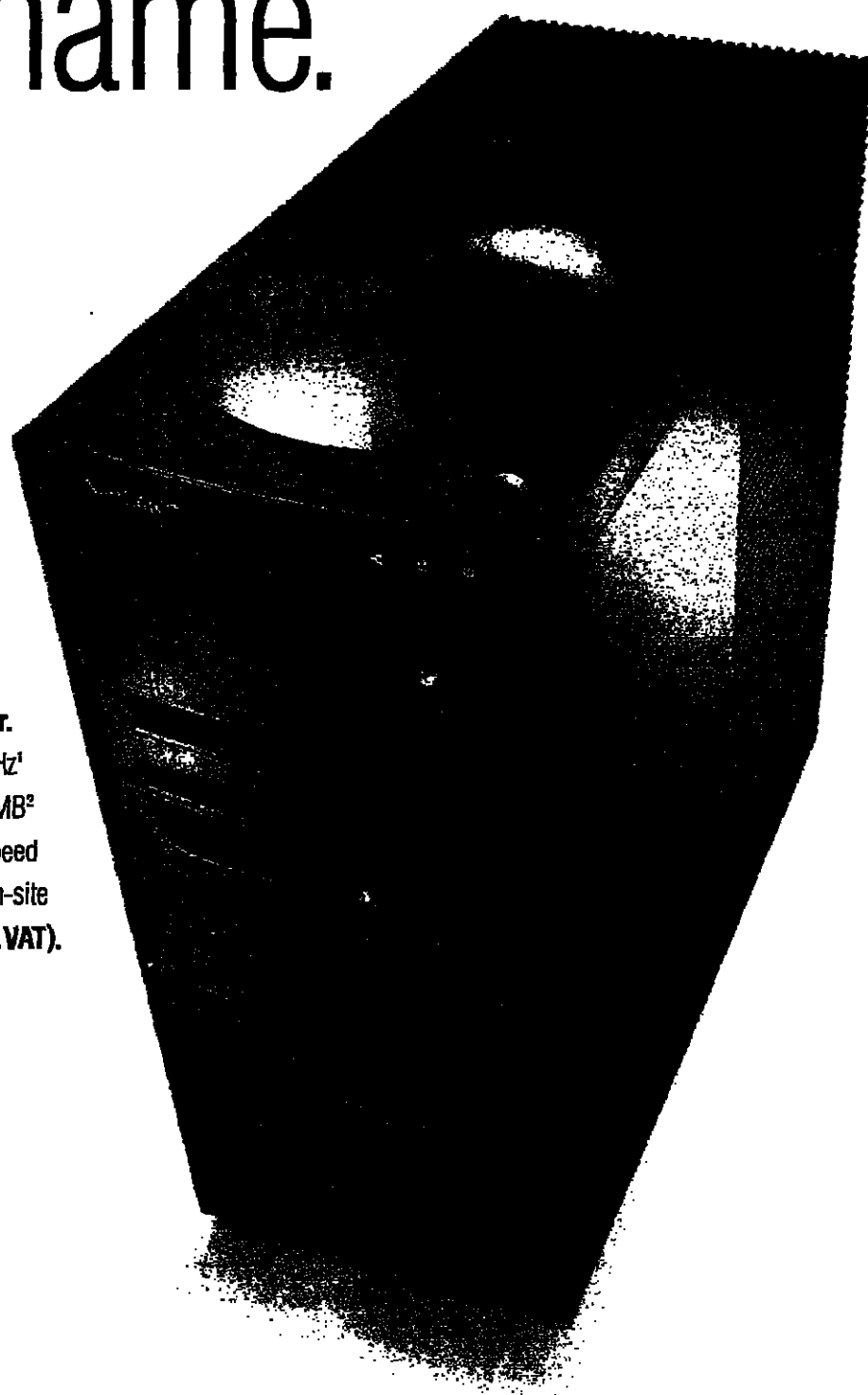
Open-source development philosophy ensures that many eyes and brains are available for fast debugging and redevelopment, thus offering high-class products quite early in the development cycle. Complex software development is often a numbers game, and open-source code has the advantage here over underfunded and hurried commercial development teams.

So will we see a change in commercial software development practice? It's too early to say - but the release of an open-source office suite that competes with Windows is a giant step towards ending the Microsoft monopoly.

eva@never.com

e-business tools

Project	Location	Year	Value
1. New York City	Manhattan	1985	\$100,000,000
2. Los Angeles	Los Angeles	1986	\$150,000,000
3. Chicago	Chicago	1987	\$200,000,000
4. San Francisco	San Francisco	1988	\$250,000,000
5. Houston	Houston	1989	\$300,000,000
6. Dallas	Dallas	1990	\$350,000,000
7. Phoenix	Phoenix	1991	\$400,000,000
8. San Diego	San Diego	1992	\$450,000,000
9. Seattle	Seattle	1993	\$500,000,000
10. Portland	Portland	1994	\$550,000,000
11. Denver	Denver	1995	\$600,000,000
12. Salt Lake City	Salt Lake City	1996	\$650,000,000
13. San Jose	San Jose	1997	\$700,000,000
14. San Antonio	San Antonio	1998	\$750,000,000
15. Austin	Austin	1999	\$800,000,000
16. Fort Worth	Fort Worth	2000	\$850,000,000
17. Jacksonville	Jacksonville	2001	\$900,000,000
18. Tampa	Tampa	2002	\$950,000,000
19. Miami	Miami	2003	\$1,000,000,000
20. Orlando	Orlando	2004	\$1,050,000,000
21. Las Vegas	Las Vegas	2005	\$1,100,000,000
22. New Orleans	New Orleans	2006	\$1,150,000,000
23. Baltimore	Baltimore	2007	\$1,200,000,000
24. Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.	2008	\$1,250,000,000
25. Philadelphia	Philadelphia	2009	\$1,300,000,000
26. Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	2010	\$1,350,000,000
27. Cincinnati	Cincinnati	2011	\$1,400,000,000
28. Cleveland	Cleveland	2012	\$1,450,000,000
29. Detroit	Detroit	2013	\$1,500,000,000
30. Indianapolis	Indianapolis	2014	\$1,550,000,000
31. Columbus	Columbus	2015	\$1,600,000,000
32. Charlotte	Charlotte	2016	\$1,650,000,000
33. Kansas City	Kansas City	2017	\$1,700,000,000
34. San Jose	San Jose	2018	\$1,750,000,000
35. San Antonio	San Antonio	2019	\$1,800,000,000
36. Austin	Austin	2020	\$1,850,000,000
37. Fort Worth	Fort Worth	2021	\$1,900,000,000
38. Jacksonville	Jacksonville	2022	\$1,950,000,000
39. Tampa	Tampa	2023	\$2,000,000,000
40. Miami	Miami	2024	\$2,050,000,000
41. Orlando	Orlando	2025	\$2,100,000,000
42. Las Vegas	Las Vegas	2026	\$2,150,000,000
43. New Orleans	New Orleans	2027	\$2,200,000,000
44. Baltimore	Baltimore	2028	\$2,250,000,000
45. Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.	2029	\$2,300,000,000
46. Philadelphia	Philadelphia	2030	\$2,350,000,000
47. Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	2031	\$2,400,000,000
48. Cincinnati	Cincinnati	2032	\$2,450,000,000
49. Cleveland	Cleveland	2033	\$2,500,000,000
50. Detroit	Detroit	2034	\$2,550,000,000
51. Indianapolis	Indianapolis	2035	\$2,600,000,000
52. Columbus	Columbus	2036	\$2,650,000,000
53. Charlotte	Charlotte	2037	\$2,700,000,000
54. Kansas City	Kansas City	2038	\$2,750,000,000
55. San Jose	San Jose	2039	\$2,800,000,000
56. San Antonio	San Antonio	2040	\$2,850,000,000
57. Austin	Austin	2041	\$2,900,000,000
58. Fort Worth	Fort Worth	2042	\$2,950,000,000
59. Jacksonville	Jacksonville	2043	\$3,000,000,000
60. Tampa	Tampa	2044	\$3,050,000,000
61. Miami	Miami	2045	\$3,100,000,000
62. Orlando	Orlando	2046	\$3,150,000,000
63. Las Vegas	Las Vegas	2047	\$3,200,000,000
64. New Orleans	New Orleans	2048	\$3,250,000,000
65. Baltimore	Baltimore	2049	\$3,300,000,000
66. Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.	2050	\$3,350,000,000
67. Philadelphia	Philadelphia	2051	\$3,400,000,000
68. Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	2052	\$3,450,000,000
69. Cincinnati	Cincinnati	2053	\$3,500,000,000
70. Cleveland	Cleveland	2054	\$3,550,000,000
71. Detroit	Detroit	2055	\$3,600,000,000
72. Indianapolis	Indianapolis	2056	\$3,650,000,000
73. Columbus	Columbus	2057	\$3,700,000,000
74. Charlotte	Charlotte	2058	\$3,750,000,000
75. Kansas City	Kansas City	2059	\$3,800,000,000
76. San Jose	San Jose	2060	\$3,



*Typical buying price for Netfinity 3000 model 10x. Resellers set their own prices, so prices may vary. MHz denotes internal clock speed of the microprocessor; only other factors also affect application performance. MB = one million bytes when referring to hard drive capacity; accessible capacity may be less. All PCs referenced in this ad include an operating system. IBM product names are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Microsoft, Windows and Windows NT are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Intel, Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

هكذا من الاصل

MY TECHNOLOGY

Heart FM Radio's David Jensen and his state-of-the-art Denon CD system, with selector. Interview by Jennifer Rodger

How to give a DJ an easy life

When I first started in radio, we had passed the cylinder stage by then, but not vinyl. That was 30 years ago. Each technical component for the radio show was independent of every other: at Radio Luxembourg I would arrive and do my programme in a room separate from where the engineering, the commercials and the music played. We broadcast in the middle of a park in a chateau with a moat, and our studio was simply a round table. The commercials and jingles played off quarter-inch tapes put on massive, open-ended 18-in discs, tightly wound and pinned on to sprockets. Some of that technical equipment was installed when Lord Haw Haw was broadcasting! (Just to digress - we had huge metal discs with German writing we would use as Frisbees. Eventually we discovered that these discs were recordings of Lord Haw Haw's broadcasts, real archives worth money. But by then, they had been dumped.)

technology was rudimentary, but at least it worked. A listener could hear the mistakes. One of the skills of live radio is to paper over the cracks; some of it is your own doing, and you should never blame technology, ever, ever. But, with hindsight, it was an odd way to broadcast.

I went from there in the mid-Seventies to Radio Nottingham. It was always my aim to move to Britain, as pirate radio was all the rage so there was plenty of opportunity. When the government shut them down I went to the BBC. The BBC virtually built and designed all the audio equipment then. For instance, everywhere else you turned faders away for increased volume, but at the Beeb they were the other way round. It was like learning to drive on the other side of the road.

In the late-Eighties CDs came in. Before then every radio station had three turntables, two you used and one as standby. At Radio 1, they spent a lot of money on an instant turntable; you used to have to cue records, back them up several inches from the start point, because there was a slow start-up. It was a real big deal to have instant-start turn-

tables. They were pretty chunky bits of machinery, not at all decorative. But previously if you coughed, moved or banged your knee, the record would jump.

Here, as a fail-safe thing our CDs are played in a plastic envelope. It's like a floppy disk. For a presenter CDs were great, because the thought of taking vinyl out of its wrapper, cueing it up in the hope that it would start when you wanted, became a real chore. In the past few years fewer and

fewer radio stations have had turntables any more; they are consigned to clubs and antiques stores. Everyone uses Denon CD machines now.

It's pretty user-friendly. And we are always given training on how to use them. A listener who is pretty alert can sometimes tell when new technology has been brought into the studio but I like to think we are able to cover up those little mistakes.

Here at Heart it's completely different. Two screens have taken the place of paper and CDs; one screen gives you the running-order of what is happening at any particular time in the hour you are on, and the other plays the music. We are not physically

As with all technology you can never really be complacent... because if you do it will bite you

'The Drivetime Show' is on every weekday, Heart 106.2, 4pm-7pm



David 'Kid' Jensen in his radio studio: 'the thought of not actually touching music seemed odd at first'

Journey out of fear

I HOPE that it is not too obvious to say that Web design lives in a symbiotic relationship with the Web browser and its associated technologies. While Web designers are very much at the mercy of companies that produce the technology we use to distribute our work, these companies also rely on Web designers to create. If Web designers decide to give the latest technologies a miss, the companies who are developing them are just putting together so many noughts and ones.

Over the last several years, though, I have noticed a strong backlash against incorporating new Web technologies (such as JavaScript, Flash, RealAudio, VRML, CSS, DHTML, and even HTML Frames) into websites.

This seems especially true of the leading pundits in the field of Web design and usability.

While I certainly understand the need for caution when approaching any new technology, writers such as Jakob Nielsen and Jesse Burst often dismiss a new technology out of hand. It's as if they can see immediately whether or not it will ever work. However, many of these technologies have a lot to offer for increasing the quality of Web page usability and the quality of information delivered via the Web.

Believe it or not, the Web is still a highly experimental medium and we cannot even begin to imagine the uses of some of the technologies on offer today, much less the ones still in beta.

So why the problems with new technologies? You could call it technophobia. You could call it a Luddite mentality. But these are just labels that don't really help us to understand the problem.

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

Reluctance by site visitors to accept new technology. Fear of large file sizes leading to long delays: obviously a larger file will lead to a longer download time. However, several other, less obvious problems can arise. Most people blame slow Web experiences on inefficient modems when, in fact, slow processors are often just as responsible.

Fear of having to download new browsers and plug-ins: by and large, most people surfing the Web will stick with the equipment that came with their computer rather than going to the trouble of downloading the latest browser or plug-in. This explains why there are so many "legacy" browsers still in use.

Until those people buy a new computer, they are unlikely to upgrade. Why don't people like to upgrade? Many feel that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", or are simply afraid to make changes. Although, for most of us, downloading a new browser or plug-in may be a cinch, for many it is a harrowing experience akin to playing Russian roulette. See the next fear.

Fear of missing things up: inexperienced computer users are often terrified that they will inadvertently ruin their very expensive computer by doing something wrong. This is especially true with software installation, as well as when working on the Web. Although it may seem irrational to seasoned computer veterans, many new users fear that they can mess up their entire

computer simply by pressing the wrong link in their browser.

Fear of learning to utilise new technologies: many people who have just started using the Web have already spent a lot of time, energy and effort learning how to operate their new computer and the basics of their browser. Now you want them to learn how to use another technology such as Flash, RealAudio, or VRML? Forget about it; it's not going to happen.

Reluctance by Web designers to embrace new technology. Fear that visitors are reluctant to use new technologies: for all the reasons listed above, many Web designers assume that visitors to their website will instantly be turned off by anything out of the ordinary.

Fear that incompatible technology between browsers will increase development time: whether it is cross-browser, cross-platform or backwards compatibility issues, trying to design using new technologies invariably increases the amount of time needed on a project. What works on one browser rarely operates in the same way on another.

Fear that the instability and complexity of a new technology will lead to usability problems: often the latest technologies have not been thoroughly tested and relying on them can be a bit of a gamble.

While it is fine to run beta versions of code on your own machine, try explaining to a customer that his or her website does not work because of unreliable code; it will lead to a short conversation ending with a phrase like: "Then we will get someone who can!"

Fear of having constantly to learn and master new technologies: there is a plethora of ever-changing and evolving technologies available for the Web and it is a full-time job just keeping up with them. Balancing the learning of new technologies and techniques with the use of

them in live sites is an extremely difficult task.

THOSE ARE some of the fears Web designers face when attempting to incorporate new technologies into their websites. These fears may seem insurmountable, but there are solutions.

Encourage standards: a standard way of dealing with the technology means that we can code once and use it universally.

Have a clear purpose for using any new technology: one problem I often encounter with sites that are technically advanced is that the designer seems to be using the latest developments simply to look impressive. This may initially give the site a high score on the gee-whiz scale, but will almost certainly turn visitors off if it has no other purpose.

Integrate new technologies in intuitive ways: how you integrate a new technology into your site will have a lot to do with the audience you have targeted. If they are likely to be unresponsive to new ways of working with the Web, you can still use new technologies, but you should strive to make them as invisible as possible to the site visitor.

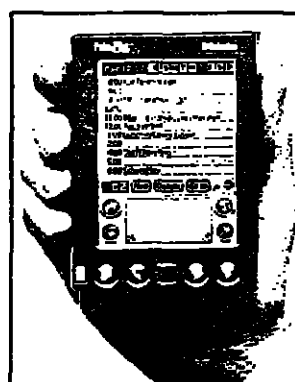
Develop understanding of new technologies early on: stay alert and check in at the World Wide Web consortium (<http://www.w3c.org>) every month or so to see what is coming up. Done correctly, design (whether print, video or Web) should be a thankless job. Good design should seem intuitive, natural and nearly invisible. The less website visitors are aware that they are using cutting-edge technologies, the more receptive they will be to them.

E-mail comments or queries, send to Jason at jteague@mindspring.com

Jason Cranford Teague is the author of 'DHTML for the World Wide Web', currently available at bookshops, both real and virtual, across the UK

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD



US Robotics' PalmPilot

PALMPILLOT HAND-HELD devices can be used to break into cars, according to a report in *New Scientist*. Following reports from Denmark, the magazine estimated that up to 3 million cars using infrared remote-controlled locking devices are vulnerable. The problem arises with the Omni-Remote software used by the portable organisers to allow them to learn the behaviour of other infrared devices and emulate them as remote controls for television sets, video recorders and other domestic appliances. Using the same process, the PalmPilot can capture the code of a car's locking system and play it back.

The manufacturers of the devices, 3Com, described the problem as "unfortunate", but said that, as they did not write the software, they are not responsible for any illegal use. They also pointed out that this previously undocumented feature is not unique to PalmPilot. "You could do this with a standard universal remote or anything that has a programmable (infrared controller) in it," a spokesman said. "This is nothing new; it just so happens that these people figured out how to do it on a Palm III."

Engineers and insurance spokesmen said that the problem applied only to some older cars with less sophisticated security systems, and that the risk is largely theoretical since car thieves would need to position themselves directly in the path of the infrared beam generated by a person locking a vehicle. "There are easier ways to steal cars," said Blake Hannaford, a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Washington.

NETWORK SOLUTIONS (NSI) and Centraal, the RealNames Web address company, last week announced a deal under which NSI will invest \$4.2m in Centraal and distribute subscriptions to RealNames. NSI has an option to acquire a stake of just under 20 per cent in Centraal, and have a seat on Centraal's board.

NSI has held a US government monopoly on assigning traditional domain names, although it is due to cede that authority to an international Internet corporation for assigned names and numbers. Centraal, founded by Keith Teare, who also co-founded the UK ISP Easynet and Cyberia

South Carolina's Attorney General, said that his state no longer feels that Microsoft is harming competition.

"The merger of America Online with Netscape and the alliance by those two companies with Sun Microsystems proves that the forces of competition are working... The Internet economy is the place where the winners and losers of this competition will rightfully be decided," said Mr Condon.

SUN MICROSYSTEMS last week unveiled Java 2 and a new licensing plan aimed at winning more developers for its programming language. It was due last summer, but getting rid of bugs took longer than expected. Java 2 promises better performance, increased security and better integration with operating systems.

Sun also said that it is changing its licensing model to an open-source-code model, whereby programmers can download the software free, modify it and share it with others. When products are ready for shipping, they will have to pass Sun's compatibility tests for Java. At that point, Sun will collect a licensing fee. Meanwhile, in compliance with a court injunction, Microsoft last week released a new version of Java Virtual Machine for Windows that is compatible with Sun's technology.

A EUROPEAN parliament com-

mittee last week postponed a vote on legislation aimed at deterring piracy on the Internet, delaying action by the full assembly until at least February next year. The Legal Affairs Committee agreed to schedule a vote for 20 January after the parliament's political groups failed to complete their internal preparations.

The legislation, proposed by the European Commission almost a year ago, gives authors, performers, producers and broadcasters the right to say who can make copies of their work. It also gives them the right to control how their creations or performances are communicated to the public and requires EU member states to prohibit devices aimed at working round anti-piracy technologies.

STAR DIVISION last week said that it is offering the latest version of its desktop application suite, StarOffice 5.0, free-for-individuals, non-commercial use at its Web site (<http://www.stardivision.com/>). The suite runs on Windows 95, 98, NT, Solaris, Linux, OS/2, and Java, and includes conversion filters for Microsoft Office including Office 2000, which ships in the coming year.

By offering the new product free of charge, the company hopes that it will make inroads against Microsoft, Lotus and Corel and gain 10 million new StarOffice users by the end of next year.

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On the road to nowhere

Technology can solve our traffic crisis
but experts are divided as to how.
Result? Gridlock. By Mark Vernon

Technology has never managed to establish a role in the portfolio of possible solutions to the road congestion problems of Great Britain. The idea of automatically charging for the use of roads, via bar codes and "swipe" or smart cards, has been around for 30 years. But the hurdles such schemes present have persistently daunted governments, developers and the public.

However, John Prescott's consultation document, "Breaking the Logjam", published last week, pushes to the top of the agenda ideas reliant on technology. The "new deal" for road users is clearly looking to new technology to move transport into the fast lane.

Hypothecation is perhaps the most important new feature, channeling money back into tackling the problem. Targeted taxation is now accepted as politically necessary to justify road-pricing policies, but it is feasible only when the collection system is highly automated.

Another important aspect of the consultation document is support for local authorities in the development of systems, a practical step required if automated road pricing is to get off the ground. Further, the Government is making available on CD-ROM the consolidated results of a number of relevant studies carried out in recent years.

Technology has grabbed the Government's attention, from Tony Blair down. But what may we expect to see after John Prescott has had his hands on it? In the United States and continental Europe, a number of road pricing schemes are in fairly advanced stages of development. They provide an indication of the kind of system that would be available for introduction in the UK.

One is a privately operated, variable-toll highway south of Los Angeles. California Private Transportation guarantees that any com-

muter willing to pay the price, which rises to \$2.50 during the rush-hour, will have a delay-free journey in a reserved lane in the middle of the existing highway. When congestion mounts up, the toll to drive in this lane automatically rises to the point where a sufficient number of motorists will choose to stay in the free, but not now free-flowing, lanes. The fare is collected electronically by a transponder on the car windshield. A bill is sent out whenever \$30 in tolls has been accumulated.

A second and much-heralded system is the toll ring around Norway's third-largest city, Trondheim. The city centre endured traffic jams and unpleasant levels of pollution, largely from through traffic. It was decided to implement a "toll ring" - 12 toll plazas encircling the city which collect tolls from motorists entering the city during working hours. The use of automated electronic tags, which research showed would reduce the cost of collection to less than one-third, is encouraged by discounts. Currently, 90 per cent of vehicles entering the city during rush-hour use the tags. Payment is arranged by making a deposit on account or by automatic bank account withdrawals.

Although the UK Government is still far from introducing similar systems here, there are pilot schemes now running. The Leicester Environmental Road Tolling Scheme (Lerts) includes a road-pricing experiment, funded in part by the European Union. Similar feasibility studies on road pricing have been carried out in Bristol, Cambridge, London and Portsmouth.

Eddie Tyer, transport special projects officer at Leicester City Council, explains how commuters were issued with smart cards and their cars were equipped with an electronic device that deducted money from accounts whenever they travelled into the city during the charging-period. The trial ended in



The Government's latest transportation consultation document shows its belief that technology is vital to efficient traffic management

Andrew Buurman

May and a report will be made to the Government in the new year. However, provisional results indicate that a cordon approach would bring about a more effective reduction in car use than a corridor system. As expected, when faced with tolls motorists rerouted, shifting the burden around the road network.

The Leicester trial points to the problems of road use charges - in particular how to manage a cordon. For example, identifying local resi-

dents, who might reasonably expect not to be charged, as opposed to through traffic, is no trivial problem when dealing with the traffic volumes of a large city. While a few cars slipping through because a remote detection device misses them would be tolerable, double-charging motorists, because a system clocks them twice, clearly would not.

Another problem the Government will have to face is the fact that there are no road-pricing technology

standards, let alone "off-the-shelf" solutions that a local authority might implement. This could become a major issue if isolated schemes start to bubble up with little or no central co-ordination.

Stephen Glaister, of the London School of Economics, argues for less technically glamorous and more practical options. The central problem as he sees it is that technical solutions demand high initial capital costs, and once a system has been

paid for there is no going back. "I am not arguing that technology does not have a role to play, but I believe we need to avoid investing in high technology located in the car and at the roadside, and keep it in the hands of the road enforcement agencies," he says. And thus keep costs down.

For example, traffic wardens might be provided with the means of scanning cars for "smart disks", electronic tax disks, as well as digital cameras to register offenders.

Alternatively, a similar smart disk might double up as a public transport permit, so that users would pay regardless of their mode of travel.

"This could be regarded as an integrated solution," Glaister suggests. "Perhaps a mayor would market the idea as a piece of civic membership, too."

Ken Livingston might see the irony in that: the Greater London Council advocated a not dissimilar scheme back in the Seventies.

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Director: Rowan Woods
Starring: David Wenham, Toni Collette, Lynette Curran
Of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, oldest boy Brett Sprague (Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend (Collette), and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. Adapted from Gordon Graham's acclaimed stage-play, *The Boys* spotlights the flipside of life Down Under, with a stark social-realist drama circling gracefully around a horrific crime which is hinted at but never actually shown. Occasionally, its theatrical origins are too readily apparent, but Rowan Woods' stealthy handling and Wenham's menacing lead ensure that the interest seldom dwindles. Potent, predatory stuff.
West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

Director: Martin Campbell
Starring: Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta Jones
The Zorro yarn resurrected. Martin "GoldenEye" Campbell's gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics jostles for purchase amid a riot of colourful duels and clattering action setpieces. It's old-fashioned and reliably entertaining. Anthony Hopkins and Catherine Zeta Jones bring a whiff of the valleys to their father-and-daughter co-star slots.
West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Director: Nancy Meckler
Starring: Lindsay Lohan, Natasha Richardson
The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue, re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heartwarmer into a spry, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natasha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together. It's a film of sleek, clean surfaces, bright colours and neat knockabout comedy. But a thick layer of syrup covers every inch.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

PLAYING GOD (18)

Director: Andy Wilson
Starring: David Duchovny, Timothy Hutton
Cracker director Wilson suffers a rude lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor (David Duchovny) embroiled with a gang of counterfeiters headed by a hammy Tim Hutton.
Essentially a star vehicle for Duchovny, *Playing God* nonetheless conspires to steer a most ill-disciplined course, swerving from grisly violence (cue jets of arterial blood) to po-faced character study (Duchovny wants his licence back) to surrealist comedy (an encounter with a bunch of saintly bikers). Hutton and his cronies indulge in all manner of insipid gangster chat, but they look a limp and spindly bunch who would be hard pushed fighting their way out of a paper bag. Duchovny and luminous co-star Angeline Jolie look on stupefied.
West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village

Nathaniel Hulley

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

"Follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted wails. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak, animatronic fairytale.
West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

BLADE (18)

A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this macho thriller about a New York vampire killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its tinny pedigree.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. Yes it backbones is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature.
West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Screen on the Hill

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

All the students at writer-director Dan Rosen's nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight-A grades to the room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the *Scream* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks.
West End: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a film which ultimately tells a tale of independence triumphing over cruelty.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road

THE END OF VIOLENCE (15)

Wim Wenders is back on form with this stylish and intelligent techno-noir about a Nasa plot to "end violence as we know it" through mass surveillance.
West End: Ritzy Cinema

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation tiffs at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life.
West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Haymarket

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Curzon Soho

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being, with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bile, and, at the day's end, this is the message of the film: turning it into a bittersweet salute to the little man who makes a big difference.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Krabbe's first stab as a director focuses on the ebbs and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fiftieth drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers plus rising star Laura Fraser.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minerva, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Hatcher Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro.
West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Pantun Street, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Rio Cinema, Warner Village West End

MULAN (U)

This Disney's animated feature has it all: a pro-active heroine who doesn't want to tend to a man or pet woodland animals; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

ON CONNATT LA CHANSON (PG)

Love him or loathe him, *Last Year at Marienbad* auteur Resnais is a queer fish. Four years after the Continental breakfast he made of Alan Ayckbourn's *Smoking/No Smoking* comes this rallying merry-go-round of romantic intrigue, "inspired by the work of Dennis Potter", and featuring a lot of Potteresque lip-synching to popular French show tunes.
West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoir

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

RONIN (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

RUSH HOUR (15)

Rush Hour marries the Hong Kong action icon Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director (*Money Talks*' Ratner) and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. Its caffeinated plotline sends Easterner and Westerner on the trail of a Chinese crime syndicate, and oscillates wildly between Tucker's verbal dexterity and Chan's adrenalinised physicality. It's a hit-and-miss affair.
West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez (right) the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.



Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's wary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgård), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

The Fountainhead (PG: Curzon Soho)

Gary Cooper plays a visionary architect who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Ayn Rand novel. Patricia Neal smoulders opposite him.

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Love Upon the Throne

The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent. Hilarious and wily touching. To 31 Jan

Angela Carter Cinderella

Lyric, Hammersmith
This feast of inspired silliness and visual magic by Angela Carter has lashings of drag and double entendres, plus the best mice on a West End stage (below). To 4 Jan

Martin Guerre West Yorkshire

Playhouse, Leeds
Gifted young Irish director Connall Morrison stages a second reworking of the troubled Boubil-Schönberg musical. Will it be third time lucky? To 13 Feb

The Boy Who Fell Into a Book

Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayckbourn - here wearing his children's dramatist hat. To 4 Jan

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford
Anthony Ward's splendid sets and Aslan are the stars of the RSC's Christmas spectacular. To 27 Feb

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Aubrey Beardsley

Victoria & Albert Museum
Displaying the short, glittering life of the aesthete and illustrator (below), with his sinuous and florid line. Drawings, prints and posters. To 10 Jan

Rosemarie Trockel Whitechapel Gallery

Influential German artist: includes a sculpture of a seal called *No one under the sun* is more miserable than the man who has a fetish for a lady's shoe and must make do with the whole woman. To 7 Feb

Chris Ofili Whitworth Gallery, Manchester

This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, and incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

Goya: The Disparates

Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery
Goya was deaf, ill and in his seventies when he produced his last series of etchings. Mysterious in intention, it is a vivid world: life is folly, men fly off on wings into darkness. To 23 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan



ANTHONY QUINN

PAUL TAYLOR

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0870 9020418) • Baker Street
Babe: Pig In The City 12.00pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm, 10.40pm, 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870 9020402) • Piccadilly Circus
The Last Days Of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
The Wisdom Of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322) (from 1pm)
• Piccadilly Circus
Dead Man's Curve 4.05pm, 8.45pm
Hamann: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Victory 1.10pm, 6.10pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE

(0870 9020402) • Leicester Square
Tottenham Court Road 1.05pm, 3.20pm, 7.05pm, 9.15pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870 9020403) • Leicester Square
Piccadilly Circus
Angel Shakes 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm
The Government 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm
Left Luggage 1.30pm, 6.55pm
Rien Ne Va Plus 4.45pm, 9.05pm
La Vie Revee Des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870 9020414) • Tottenham Court Road
Antz 1.25pm, 6.35pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm
Elizabeth 3.40pm, 8.35pm
My Name Is Joe 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm
The Negotiator 8.50pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-638 8891) • Barbican
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.15pm
The Mask Of Zorro 6.30pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) • Sloane Square
On Connatt La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) • Clapham Common
Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm
It's A Wonderful Life 1.30pm, 6.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4pm, 9.15pm
The Mask Of Zorro 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Out Of Sight 9.30pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1270) • Green Park
Dancing At Lughnassa 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255) (12pm-6pm)
• Leicester Square
Tottenham Court Road 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm
It's A Wonderful Life 1.30pm, 6.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4pm, 9.15pm
The Mask Of Zorro 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Out Of Sight 9.30pm

ELPHANT & CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4968) • Elephant & Castle
Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm
The Mask Of Zorro 4.30pm, 8.10pm
Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0950-888990) • Leicester Square
Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm
Out Of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill Gate
It's A Wonderful Life 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm

ICA CINEMA

(0171-930 3647) • Charing Cross
Bernie 8.30pm
Hidden Fortress 8pm, 8.15pm
Thermos 6.30pm

METRO

(0171-734 1506) • Piccadilly Circus
The Boys 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Buffalo 6.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON MINERVA

(0171-369 1733) • Hyde Park Corner
Left Luggage 2.50pm, 6.50pm
La Vie Revee Des Anges 4.40pm, 8.40pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill Gate
Dancing At Lughnassa 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(08705 050007) • Camden Town
Babe: Pig In The City 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm
The Mask Of Zorro 11.50am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm
The Negotiator 8.20pm
Out Of Sight 12.00pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm
Rush Hour 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(08705 050007) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(08705 050007) • High Street
Kensington Babs: Pig In The City 12.00pm, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm
The Mask Of Zorro 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm
Out Of Sight 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm
The Parent Trap 12.00pm, 3pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm
Ronin 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm
Rush Hour 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

(08705 050007) • Leicester Square
The Mask Of Zorro 11.40am, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(08705 050007) • Marble Arch
Babe: Pig In The City 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 6.35pm
The Mask Of Zorro 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9pm
The Negotiator 8.55pm
Out Of Sight 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.55pm
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm
Rush Hour 1.55pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(08705 050007) • Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm
The Wisdom Of Crocodiles 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.15pm
Snake Eyes 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm
Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(08705 050007) • Swiss Cottage
Antz 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 6pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm
It's A Wonderful Life 1.30pm, 6.30pm
Left Luggage 8.45pm
The Mask Of Zorro 1.40pm, 4.45pm, 8pm
Out Of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm
Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END

(08705 050007) • Leicester Square
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
The Negotiator 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
Playing God 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Rush Hour 1.50pm, 3.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm, 9.30pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(084-1153) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.05pm
T-Rex Back To The Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PHOENIX CINEMA

PURLEY
ABC (0870-902040) BR: Purley
Babe: Pig In The City 5.50pm Blade
8.15pm The Parent Trap 8.30pm
8.50pm Rush Hour 8.55pm
8.55pm

PUNEY
ABC (0870-902040) BR: Puneey
Babe: Pig In The City 5.50pm
3.45pm, 6pm The Negotiator
8.15pm Out Of Sight 8.15pm
8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm
5.15pm, 8.15pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/RF
Richmond: The Mask Of Zorro
2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The Parent
Trap 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm
6.10pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm,
4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007)
BR/RF Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm,
5pm, 7pm Babe: Pig In The City
1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm Dancing At
Lughnasa 2pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm
9.20pm The Negotiator 8.40pm
Out Of Sight 12.30pm, 3.10pm,
6pm, 9pm Ronin 8.50pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-902041) BR: Romford
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm,
3.30pm, 5.30pm Elizabeth 8.05pm
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm,
8.05pm Rush Hour 1.45pm,
4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007)
BR: Romford Antz 1.30pm, 3.30pm,
5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 8.40pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels
12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm,
6.50pm, 9pm The Mask Of Zorro
2pm, 5.05pm, 8pm Out Of Sight
12.15pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.10pm,
5.40pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour
12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm,
8.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm,
3.45pm Elizabeth 5.20pm, 8.15pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrels 8.40pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907017) BR: Cuck-
lewood Antz 2.15pm, 4.30pm,
6.45pm Babe: Pig In The City
1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm
8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 2pm,
5pm, 8pm Out Of Sight 8.40pm
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.40pm,
6.20pm, 9.05pm Rush Hour 1pm,
4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902041) BR: Streatham
Hill Antz 2.15pm, 4.30pm,
6.45pm Babe: Pig In The City
1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm
8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 2pm,
5pm, 8pm Out Of Sight 8.40pm
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.40pm,
6.20pm, 9.05pm Rush Hour 1pm,
4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR:
Streatham Hill/Brickton/Captham
Common Babe: Pig In The City
1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.15pm
12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
The Mask Of Zorro 12.20pm,
3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Negotiator
8.20pm The Parent Trap
12.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm
Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.10pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (555 3366) BR/RF Stratford
East Babe: Pig In The City 2pm,
4.15pm, 6.15pm The Mask
Of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.30pm,
8.55pm Out Of Sight 8.10pm,
The Parent Trap 12.25pm, 3.10pm,
5.55pm, 8.30pm Rush
Hour 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.45pm,
9.10pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990 888990) BR: Surrey
Quays Antz 3.45pm, 6.10pm Babe:
Pig In The City 1.15pm, 4.45pm,
3.40pm, 7pm, 9.45pm, 10pm Blade
1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Mask Of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.30pm,
9.30pm The Negotiator 8.30pm
Out Of Sight 8.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm
The Parent Trap 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm
Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm,
9.40pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519)
BR: Turnpike Lane Babe: Pig In The
City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The
Mask Of Zorro 4.30pm, 8.10pm
Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm,
8.45pm

UNBRIDGE
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/RF
Unbridge Babe: Pig In The City
1.30pm, 4pm, 6pm The Exorcist
(25th Anniversary Rerelease)
8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro
1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-902042) BR: Waltham-
stow Central Babe: Pig In The City
2.20pm, 5pm The Negotiator 8pm
The Parent Trap 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm,
8.40pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-
252825) BR: Walton on Thames
Babe: Pig In The City 4.25pm,
6.30pm The Mask Of Zorro
2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm Les
Miserables 2pm Out Of Sight
8.30pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351)
BR: Erith/Bab Lane Babe: Pig In The
City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Parent
Trap 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/RF
Wimbledon South Wimbledon
Antz 12.25pm, 2.15pm, 4pm Babe:
Pig In The City 1.25pm, 2.20pm,
4.25pm, 6.30pm The Mask Of
Zorro 1.45pm, 2.30pm, 5.20pm,
8.15pm Out Of Sight 8.15pm,
8.30pm The Parent Trap 11.45am,
2.35pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm Ronin
8.30pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4.10pm,
8.30pm, 8.50pm Small Soldiers
11.50am

WOOD GREEN
NEW CUCKZON (0181-347 6664)
BR: Turnpike Lane Jooble Boole Kauea
Kaete 5pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai
1.30pm, 8.30pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-889 3463) BR: South
Woodford Babe: Pig In The City
1.25pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels
The Negotiator 1.40pm, 3pm,
8pm The Parent Trap 2.10pm,
5.30pm, 8.10pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR:
Woolwich Arsenal Babe: Pig In
The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm
Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm,
8.45pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928
3332) Hana-Bi (18) 2.30pm,
8.45pm 50 Years Of Human Rights
In Facz Shorts (NC) 6.15pm The X-
Files (15) 6.20pm When Night Is
Falling (18) 8.30pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (0171-437 8181) Funny
Games (18) 1pm Lolita (18)
3.45pm Halloween: H2O (18)
6.30pm The X-Files (15) 8.45pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road
W6 (0171-420 0100) Hear My
Song (15) 6.30pm + Funny Bones
(15) 8.35pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORKS (01273-602503)
It's A Wonderful Life (U) 1.45pm,
6.30pm Dancing At Lughnasa (PG)
4.15pm, 9pm

BRISTOL
CUBE CINEMA (0114-907 4191)
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas
(18) 9pm My Name Is Joe (15)
7pm

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845)
The Long Days Of Peace (18)
Director: NC) 8.15pm Dancing At
Lughnasa (PG) 8.25pm La Vie
Rue Des Anges (The Dream
Life Of Angels) (18) 6pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
Dancing At Lughnasa (PG) 1pm,
7.15pm Left Leg (PG) 3pm,
9.15pm There's Something About
Mary (15) 5pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-
399666) Elizabeth (15) 8pm

DUBLIN
IRISH FILM CENTRE (00 353 1-
679 3477/544) The Fountainhead
(PG) 2.10pm, 6.30pm On Conall
La Chanson (PG) 3pm, 8.30pm
Fear Of The Horse (15) 8.30pm
X/Embankment (PG) 8.30pm
Fr-Sat 8.30pm, [5] 3.00pm, [7]
5pm, ends 9 Jan, E11-E28.50,
150 mins.

NORMICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047)
The Long Days Of Peace (15)
5.45pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels (18) 8.15pm

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

CAMBRIDGE
WARNER VILLAGE (01223-
460442) 101 Dalmatians (U);
Dolittle (PG); Godzilla (PG);
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrels (18); Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels (18); The Mask
Of Zorro (PG); Mulan (U); The
Negotiator (15); Out Of Sight (15);
The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince
Of Egypt (U); Ronin (15); Rush
Hour (15); Small Soldiers (PG);
There's Something About Mary
(15)

EXETER
ODEON (08705-050007) Babe:
Pig In The City (U); Blade (18);
Dolittle (PG); Godzilla (PG);
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrels (18); The Mask Of Zorro
(PG); Mulan (U); The Negotiator
(15); Out Of Sight (15); The
Parent Trap (PG); The Prince Of
Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15); Small
Soldiers (PG); Toy Story (PG)

PICTURE HOUSE (01392-435522):
The Eel (Unag) (18); Fear And
Loathing In Las Vegas (18); Hana-
Bi (18); It's A Wonderful Life (U);
Little Voice: Special Preview (NC)
My Name Is Joe (15); The Real
Howard Spitz (PG)

GUILDFOOT
ODEON (08705-050007) Antz
(PG); Babe: Pig In The City (U);
Barney's Great Adventure (U);
Blade (18); Dr Dolittle (PG);
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrels (18); The Mask Of Zorro
(PG); Mulan (U); The Negotiator
(15); Out Of Sight (15); The
Parent Trap (PG); Paulie (U);
Ronin (15); Rush Hour (15); Small
Soldiers (PG); There's Something
About Mary (15)

LUTON
ABC CINEMA (0870-9020422):
Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The City
(U); Out Of Sight (15); The Parent
Trap (PG); The Prince Of Egypt
(U); Rush Hour (15)

**LUTON CINEWORLD (01582-
000705):** Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In
The City (U); Blade (18); Dr
Dolittle (PG); The Exorcist
(25th Anniversary Rerelease)
8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro
1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm

MAIDSTONE
ODEON LOCHMEADOW (08705-
050007) Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In
The City (U); Barney's Great
Adventure (U); Blade (18); Dr
Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels (18); The Mask
Of Zorro (PG); Mulan (U); The
Negotiator (15); Out Of Sight (15);
The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince
Of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15); Small
Soldiers (PG); There's Something
About Mary (15)

MAIDSTONE
ODEON LOCHMEADOW (08705-
050007) Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In
The City (U); Barney's Great
Adventure (U); Blade (18); Dr
Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels (18); The Mask
Of Zorro (PG); Mulan (U); The
Negotiator (15); Out Of Sight (15);
The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince
Of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15); Small
Soldiers (PG); There's Something
About Mary (15)

MAIDSTONE
ODEON LOCHMEADOW (08705-
050007) Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In
The City (U); Barney's Great
Adventure (U); Blade (18); Dr
Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels (18); The Mask
Of Zorro (PG); Mulan (U); The
Negotiator (15); Out Of Sight (15);
The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince
Of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15); Small
Soldiers (PG); There's Something
About Mary (15)

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ODEON LOCHMEADOW (08705-
050007) Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In
The City (U); Barney's Great
Adventure (U); Blade (18); Dr
Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels (18); The Mask
Of Zorro (PG); Mulan (U); The
Negotiator (15); Out Of Sight (15);
The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince
Of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15); Small
Soldiers (PG); There's Something
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The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince
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Of Zorro (PG); Mulan (U); The
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MAIDSTONE
ODEON LOCHMEADOW (08705-
050007) Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In
The City (U); Barney's Great
Adventure (U); Blade (18); Dr
Dolittle (PG); Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels (18); The Mask
Of Zorro (PG); Mulan (U); The
Negotiator (15); Out Of Sight (15);
The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince
Of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15); Small
Soldiers (PG); There's Something
About Mary (15)

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for to-
day, times and prices for the week:
running times include intervals. ●
— Seats at all prices — Returns only
Mates — [1]: Sat; [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed,
[5]: Thur; [6]: Fri; [7]: Sat.

B22 AND ABOUT THE BOY
Three friends and their respective
problems are put under the micro-
scope in Ed Hime's new drama.
Preceded by a new short, Royal
Court Upstairs (at The Ambassa-
dors) West Street, WC2 (0171-
565 5000) ● Leic Sq. Mon-Fri
7.15pm, ES, double bill (7.15pm &
9pm performances on same night)
E7.50-E15.

ALANIS AND EXCURSIONS
Michael Fray's new comedy about
a dinner party which is interrupted
by mysterious messages stars Fel-
icity Kendal and Josie Lawrence.
Geigold Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-494 5065) ● Pic Cir. Mon-
Sat 7.45pm, [5] 7pm, E19.50-
E27.50, 130 mins.

AMADEUS David Suchet stars
as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's
acclaimed drama. Old Vic, The
Ct. SE1 (0171-928 7616/420 0000)
BR/RF Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, E7.50-E30,
180 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Royal
family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the favourite fair-
ytale. Dominion Tottenham Court
Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ● Tot
Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7pm,
[7] 3pm, booking to June 26,
E18.50-E25, 150 mins.

THE BEST OF TIMES Revue
show featuring the songs of Je-
rry Herman. Vaudeville Strand, WC2
(0171-836 9987) BR/RF Charing
X. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, [4] 7
3.30pm, E9.50-E27.50.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy
Russell's long-running Liverpool
musical, featuring the songs of
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-699-
1733) ● Leic Sq/Tot Ct Rd. Mon-
Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3.00pm, [7]
4.00pm, E11.50-E32.50, 165 mins.

BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie
stars in a brand new 1970s musical.
Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836-
8888) ● Leic Sq/Tot Ct Rd. Mon-
Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3.00pm, [7]
4.00pm, E11.50-E32.50, 165 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical ver-
sion of TS Eliot's poems. New Lon-
don Park Street, WC2 (0171-405-
0072/cc 0171-404 0079) ●
Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 2.30pm, [7] 3.00pm, E12.50-
E35, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Maria Friedman and
Peter Davison star in this hit broad-
way musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane,
WC2 (0171-344 0055) ● Charing
X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 7pm, E16-
E36 (inc booking fee), 130 mins.

CINDERELLA Angela Carter's
version of this fairytale is staged by
the acclaimed Improbable Theatre.
Lyric Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741-
2311) ● Hammersmith. Today 1.30pm,
ends 9 Jan, E15-E18, concs E6.50.

FAME THE MUSICAL High-
octane stage version of the TV series
charting the highs and lows of a class
of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of
Wales, Covent Garden, W1 (0171-
835 5972) ● Leic Sq/Tot Ct Rd. Mon-
Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat
4pm & 8pm, ends 16 Jan, E15-E30,
145 mins.

FILUMENA Judi Dench and
Michael Pennington star in Timbal-
lake Wertenbaker's new translation of
Eduardo de Filippo's play.
Piccadilly Denman Street, W1
(0171-491 1734) ● Pic Cir. In rep.
today 8pm, ends 27 Jan, E12-E18,
145 mins.

FOUR AND THE CRUTCH
Richard Wilson directs Christopher
Shinn's debut work. Preceded by a
short, Royal Court Upstairs (at The
Ambassadors) West Street, WC2
(0171-565 5000) ● Leic Sq. Tonight
8pm, ES, double bill (7.15pm & 9pm
performances on same night) E7.50-
E15.

GIRAGE Energetic stage version
of the hit film. Cambridge Earthen
Street, WC2 (0171-494 5065) ●
Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 7pm, 3.00pm, E10-E30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christo-
pher Cazenove and Susannah York
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production
of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ●
Pic Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5]
3pm, [7] 4pm, booking to Feb 25,
E8-E29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen
Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-
tion of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494-
0085) ● Leic Sq/Tot Ct Rd. Mon-
Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3.00pm,
E10-E25, 110 mins.

INTO THE WOODS Sondheim
and Lapine's acclaimed musical
based on fairytales. Donmar Ware-
house Earthen Street, WC2 (0171-
365 7332) ● Covent Garden.
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm,
booking to 13 Feb, E15-E27.50.

LOVE UPON THE THRONE
Tosca! Look at the Charles and
Diana marriage. Comedy Pantom
Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ●
Pic Cir/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm,
[4] 7pm, ends 31 Jan, E5-E25.

LES MISERABLES Musical
dramatisation of Victor Hugo's mas-
terpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue,
W1 (0171-434 0506) ● Pic Cir. Mon-
Sat 7.45pm, [5] 7.30pm, [7] 3.30pm,
E7-E35, 195 mins.

MISS SAUGER Musical which
re-tells the Madam Bovary tragedy.
Vietnam Theatre Royal, Drury
Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-
494 5060) ● Covent Garden. Mon-
Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7pm, 3.00pm,
E5.75-E35, 165 mins.

THE MOUSSETRAP Agatha
Christie's whodunit. St. Martin's
West Street, WC2 (0171-211211) ●
Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00pm, [3]
2.45pm, [7] 5.00pm, E9-E23,
135 mins.

**THE PHANTOM OF THE
OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's
Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Hay-
market, SW1 (0171-344 4444) ● Pic Cir.
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7pm, 3.00pm,
E10-E35, 150 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bo-
hème and set in modern day New
York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Ave-
nue, WC2 (0171-211211) ● Leic Sq.
Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 7pm, [7] 3pm,
[4] 7pm, E12.50-E32.50, 160 mins.

SHERIFF Andrew Lloyd Webber's
Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Hay-
market, SW1 (0171-344 4444) ● Pic Cir.
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7pm, 3.00pm,
E10-E35, 150 mins.

THE SEVEN DREAMS Andrew
Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her
Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-
344 4444) ● Pic Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
[4] 7pm, 3.00pm, E10-E35, 150 mins.

THE SEVEN DREAMS Andrew
Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her
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[4] 7pm, 3.00pm, E10-E35, 150 mins.

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THE SEVEN DREAMS Andrew
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MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 A Spicy Breakfast. **9.00** John May's Office Party. **12.00** Kevin Greening. **2.00** Mark Radcliffe. **4.00** Chris Moyles. **5.45** Newsbeat. **6.00** Dave Pearce. **8.00** Lamaco Live. **12.00** The Breezeblock. **2.00** Emma B. **4.00** - **6.30** Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan. **9.30** Ken Bruce. **12.00** Jimmy Young. **2.00** Ed Stewart. **5.05** Johnnie Walker. **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton. **8.00** Big Band Special. **8.30** The New Jazz Standards. **9.30** The Rock 'n' Roll Years. **10.30** Richard Allinson. **12.00** Katrina Leskanich. **3.00** - **4.00** Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. **9.00** Masterworks. **10.30** Artist of the Week. **11.00** Sound Stories. **12.00** Composer of the Week: Johann Sebastian Bach. **1.00** The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. **2.00** The BBC Orchestras. **4.00** Opera in Action. **4.45** Music Machine. **5.00** In Tune. **7.30** Performance on 3. Tomas Luis de Victoria, the greatest composer of the Spanish Renaissance, was born 450 years ago. This concert - given in October at St John's, Smith Square, London - includes his sensual settings of poetry from the Song of Solomon, elegant hymns, and the pinnacle of early Spanish choral music - the Requiem for the Dowager Empress Maria. The Sixteen/Harry Christophers. Victoria: Ave, maris Stella; Vidi speciosam; Veni creator spiritus; Vadam, et circumibo civitatem; Ad coenam agni providi; Requiem (1605). **9.00** Postscript. Kevin Jackson unravels the stories behind classic works of European literature. 1: 'The Cant of Giacomo Leopardi'. Mocked as a hunchback, virtually imprisoned by his parents and unloved in love, Giacomo Leopardi (1798-1837) produced some of the most musical and moving poetry ever written in Italian. Though scarcely known in his own time, many now rate him second only to Dante. Kevin Jackson examines why he means so much to those who read him and talks to Edwin Morgan, one of a growing number of contemporary poets who have translated his work into English. See *Pick of the Day*. **9.25** BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Conductor Paul Murphy. **10.00** Voices. Cecilia Bartoli in 'Recital'. Ian Burnside introduces a recital given by the Italian mezzo earlier this year in Feldkirch, Austria. Cecilia Bartoli (mezzo), Gyor Fischer (piano), Bellini: Vaga luna che inargenti; Malinconia, ninfetta gentile; Ma rendi pur contento Donizetti; La coccocchia; Amore e morte; Mi voglio fe' na casa. Rossini: Mi lagnero tacendo; Bolero; L'Orpheus du Tyrol; Bel raggio lusinghier (Semiramide). **10.45** Mixing It. Mark Russell and Robert Sandall make another selection from the far side. **11.30** Jazz Notes. **12.00** Composer of the Week: Elliott Carter. (R) **1.00** - **6.00** Through the Night. **6.00** Today. **9.00** NEWS: Start the Week. **9.45** Serial: Dear Bill. **10.00** NEWS: Woman's Hour. **11.00** NEWS: Snapshots from the New South Africa. **11.30** My Gaiety Girls.

PICK OF THE DAY

THE POINT is not to be happy, but to use your misery to best effect. In Return to Lyonesse (12.15pm R4), David Constantine goes to Cornwall (right) to tell the story of Thomas Hardy, the happy courtship of his first wife and the 40 years of joyless marriage that followed - an experience from which he produced some of the most shattering beautiful poetry written in the last century.

Giacomo Leopardi was miserable for different reasons: deformed and half-blind, he spent much of his life under what amounted to house-arrest by his parents. His poetry has been judged among the finest ever written in Italian - second only to Dante, according to some. Kevin Jackson has the whole story in Postscript (9pm R3).



ROBERT HANKS

etry ever written in Italian. Though scarcely known in his own time, many now rate him second only to Dante. Kevin Jackson examines why he means so much to those who read him and talks to Edwin Morgan, one of a growing number of contemporary poets who have translated his work into English. See *Pick of the Day*. **9.25** BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Conductor Paul Murphy. **10.00** Voices. Cecilia Bartoli in 'Recital'. Ian Burnside introduces a recital given by the Italian mezzo earlier this year in Feldkirch, Austria. Cecilia Bartoli (mezzo), Gyor Fischer (piano), Bellini: Vaga luna che inargenti; Malinconia, ninfetta gentile; Ma rendi pur contento Donizetti; La coccocchia; Amore e morte; Mi voglio fe' na casa. Rossini: Mi lagnero tacendo; Bolero; L'Orpheus du Tyrol; Bel raggio lusinghier (Semiramide). **10.45** Mixing It. Mark Russell and Robert Sandall make another selection from the far side. **11.30** Jazz Notes. **12.00** Composer of the Week: Elliott Carter. (R) **1.00** - **6.00** Through the Night. **6.00** Today. **9.00** NEWS: Start the Week. **9.45** Serial: Dear Bill. **10.00** NEWS: Woman's Hour. **11.00** NEWS: Snapshots from the New South Africa. **11.30** My Gaiety Girls.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. **1.00** The World at One. **1.30** Brain of Brains 1998. **2.00** NEWS: The Archers. **2.45** NEWS: Afternoon Play: Return to Lyonesse. See *Pick of the Day*. **3.00** Money Box Live: 0171 580 4444. **3.30** Red Boxes. **3.45** With Great Pleasure. **4.00** NEWS: Food Programme. **4.30** Turning World. **5.00** PM. **6.00** Six o'clock News. **6.30** I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. **7.00** NEWS: The Archers. **7.15** Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts show, including a pick of the best stocking-filler CDs of the year. **7.45** Under One Roof. With Martha Kearney and guests. Drama: 'Under One Roof' by Jenny Lind. Based on the original stories by Michele Hanson. As Christmas approaches, shopping, cooking and clucking reach frantic proportions for Gillian, her daughter Chloe and her mother Bernice. Nativity is in the air even for Molly the dog. With Janet Maw and Edna Dore. Director Marilyn Irmie. Part 1. **8.00** NEWS: Love Is Not Enough - Overseas Adoptions. Vera Frankl examines why the British adopt fewer children from overseas than other European countries. **8.30** Analysis. 'The Profit Motive'. Julian Le Grand looks at the huge part assessments of human motivation play in forming public policy for services like health and education. **9.00** NEWS: Nature: A Drop of Life. 'Life on the Brandberg'. Biologist and rock climber John Altringham investigates an unexplored monolith that freezes at night and bakes in the Arabian sun. **9.30** Start the Week. Jeremy Paxman and guests set the cultural agenda for the week. **10.00** The World Tonight. With Justin Webb. **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Spider-web. By Penelope Lively. Read by Stephanie Cole. Retirement to a West Country hamlet proves to be less tranquil than expected for anthropologist Stella Brentwood, as relationships old and new intertwine (6/10). **11.00** Radio 4 Appeal. Carol Vorderman speaks on behalf of CHIT, a charity which helps children who suffer brain injuries. **11.02** Fatherland. (R) **11.30** Rebel Music. **12.00** NEWS. **12.30** The Late Book: Aphrodite. **12.45** Shipping Forecast. **1.00** As World Service. **5.30** World News. **5.35** Shipping Forecast. **5.40** Inshore Forecast. **5.45** Prayer for the Day. **5.47** - **6.00** Farming Today. **RADIO 4 LW** (198kHz) **9.45** - **10.00** Daily Service. **12.00** - **12.04** News Headlines: Shipping. **5.54** - **5.57** Shipping. **11.30** - **12.00** Parliament. **12.30** - **7.30** Test Match Special.

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INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

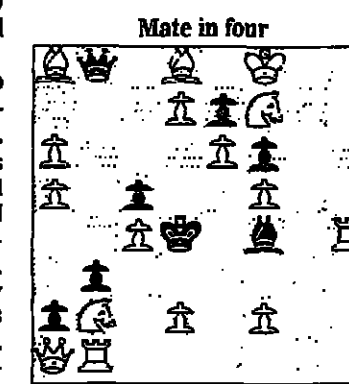
OF ALL chess moves, with the possible exception of casting, pawn-promotion is the one which has taken longest to stabilise. The rules today are admirably clear:

"When a pawn reaches the rank furthest from its starting position it must be exchanged as part of the same move for a queen, rook, bishop or knight of the same colour. The player's choice is not restricted to pieces that have been captured previously."

This, *The Oxford Companion to Chess* by David Hooper and Kenneth Whyld (inter alia) informs me, is essentially the same as the rules that applied in the first international tournament - London 1851. I turned for further elucidation to H.J.R. Murray's definitive *A History of Chess*, which was originally published by Oxford University Press in 1913 (his father, Sir James A.H. Murray, was the first editor-in-chief of the *Oxford English Dictionary*).

From Murray I learnt that in the first edition of his *L'Analyse du Jeu des Echecs* (1749) the great Francois-Andre Danican Philidor (1726-95) deplored the custom of the French players who permitted a plurality of queens: indeed in earlier times this had even been seen as condoning adultery! But by the 1790 edition the present form had been adopted; it had been published in English by Arthur Saul in *The Famous Game of Chess-Play* as early as 1614.

Ignoring the multifarious variants - the pawn must be exchanged for a piece already captured, and must otherwise await one: it can remain as a pawn for ever, etc - the modern variant gives rise to an awesome complex problem theme, the "Babson task", which is named



LV Yarosh 1st prize Shakhmaty vs SSSR 1983

The point of the Babson task is that Black should promote to all four pieces, in each case met by the matching white promotion.

After 1 a7? if 1... axb1 Qxb2 2 axb2 Qxb3 Qxa1 4 Rxf4 mate or 1... axb1 R 2 axb1 Rxb2 3 Rxb3 Kxf4 4 Qa4 mate or 1... axb1 B 2 axb1 Bxb3 3 Bxb4 Kxf4 4 Qa4 mate and 4 Bb3 or Be5 mate or 1... axb1 N 2 axb1 Nxb3 3 Qc1 Ne4 4 Nc6 mate. There are also some (unthematic but necessary) sidelines, eg 1... Qxa8 2 Rxf4 Qxf4 3 a8 Qxf4 4 Qd5 mate or 1... Qxa8 + 2 Kg7! Qb8 + 3 Kxf8 axb1 Q d8 Q mate.

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

IT IS certainly true that, when you know where most of the outstanding points lie, you can often make 3 No-trumps with fewer values than are usually needed.

Following this principle, North-South pushed to a thin game on this deal and got home after dozy play on West's part.

West opened One Spade and, after two passes, South bid Two Diamonds. West persisted with Two Spades and, stretching somewhat, North tried Three Spades.

Not to be outdone, South bid 3 No-trumps against which West led ♠A. After studying dummy, he switched to ♠4 which went to the three, nine and jack.

Declarer played off ♠K and ♠A, then led ♠Q from the table. East covered. South won, and West played with a low heart. Next, declarer played off two more winning diamonds and West discarded two more low hearts.

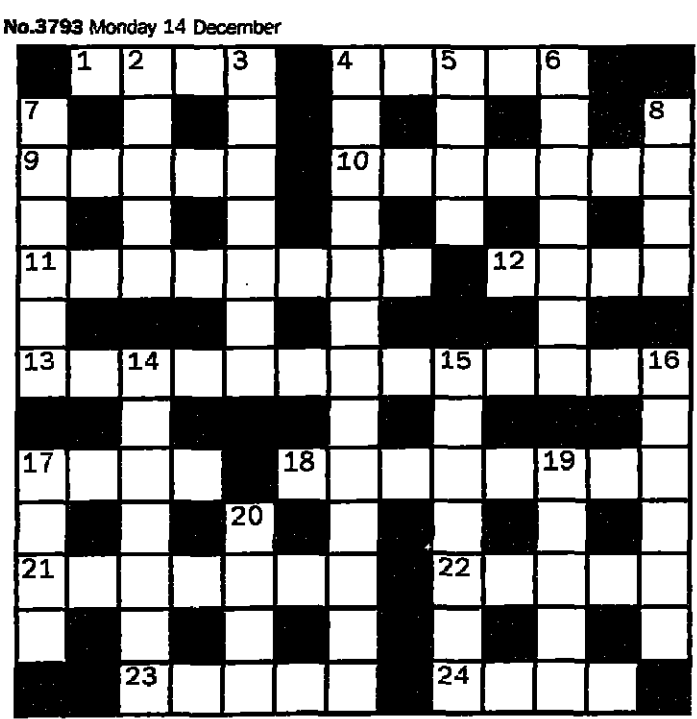
Before cashing the last diamond, South led ♠9 and let West hold the trick with his new bare king.

With nothing but spades left, West continued with the ace and another. Now, after cashing the last diamond, South simply played a club.

Game all: dealer West			
North		East	
♠ 6 4		♠ 3	
♥ A J 10 3		♥ Q 7 4 2	
♦ A 10 4		♦ 9 8 5	
♣ Q 7 6 3		♣ K 10 9 5	
West		East	
♠ A K J 8 7 2		♠ 3	
♥ K 6 5		♥ Q 7 4 2	
♦ 3		♦ 9 8 5	
♣ 4		♣ K 10 9 5	
South		North	
♠ Q 10 9		♠ 6 4	
♥ 9		♥ A J 10 3	
♦ K Q 7 6 2		♦ A 10 4	
♠ A J 8 2		♣ Q 7 6 3	

At his stage dummy held ♠A 7. If East had saved two clubs, he would have to give declarer the last trick if he had saved a heart, ♠A was brought back to life. There were two points to note - declarer cut himself off from ♠A but it did not matter and - more significantly - West should have discarded ♠K at an early stage (if South held ♠Q, this was a useless card and a liability).

CONCISE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Stage (4)
 - 2 Concur (5)
 - 3 Hunting cry (5-2)
 - 4 Places affording good view (7,6)
 - 5 Garden feature (4)
 - 6 Potted scene (7)
 - 7 Maintenance (6)
 - 8 Funeral bonfire (4)
 - 9 Type of lettuce (7)
 - 10 Of volcanic origin (7)
 - 11 Charm (6)
 - 12 Blow gently (4)
 - 13 Overweight (5)
 - 14 Children (poet.) (4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Stage (4)
 - 2 Concur (5)
 - 3 Hunting cry (5-2)
 - 4 Places affording good view (7,6)
 - 5 Garden feature (4)
 - 6 Potted scene (7)
 - 7 Maintenance (6)
 - 8 Funeral bonfire (4)
 - 9 Type of lettuce (7)
 - 10 Of volcanic origin (7)
 - 11 Charm (6)
 - 12 Blow gently (4)
 - 13 Overweight (5)
 - 14 Children (poet.) (4)

Solution to last Saturday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Climate, 2 Ties, 3 Ties, 4 Ties, 5 Ties, 6 Ties, 7 Ties, 8 Ties, 9 Ties, 10 Ties, 11 Ties, 12 Ties, 13 Ties, 14 Ties, 15 Ties, 16 Ties, 17 Ties, 18 Ties, 19 Ties, 20 Ties, 21 Ties, 22 Ties, 23 Ties, 24 Ties.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER
6.00 Mother Knows Best (1997) (79443). **8.00** Old Yeller (1957) (31288). **10.00** The Preacher's Wife (1998) (85648). **12.00** Mother Knows Best (1997) (79443). **2.00** Old Yeller (1957) (31288). **4.00** The Preacher's Wife (1998) (85648). **6.00** Mother Knows Best (1997) (79443). **8.00** Old Yeller (1957) (31288). **10.00** The Preacher's Wife (1998) (85648). **12.00** Mother Knows Best (1997) (79443). **2.00** Old Yeller (1957) (31288). **4.00** The Preacher's Wife (1998) (85648). **6.00** Mother Knows Best (1997) (79443). **8.00** Old Yeller (1957) (31288). **10.00** The Preacher's Wife (1998) (85648). **12.00** Mother Knows Best (1997) (79443). **2.00** Old Yeller (1957) (31288). **4.00** The Preacher's Wife (1998) (85648). **6.00** Mother Knows Best (1997) (79443). **8.00** Old Yeller (1957) (31288). **10.00** The Preacher's Wife (1998) (85648). **12.00** Mother Knows Best (1997) (79443). **2.00** Old Yeller (1957) (31288). **4.00** The Preacher's Wife (1998) (85648). 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Blair... Clinton... visit... destiny... Palestine... Young and... Cold War... Foreign P11... China's next... Foreign P12...

MONDAY TELEVISION

THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 14 December 1998



MATTHEW SWEET

TELEVISION REVIEW

THESE ARE few things in the entire history of human art that have been so widely loved and so widely hated as the movies. And it is this paradox that makes them so fascinating. They are a mirror of our society, a reflection of our values, a record of our lives. They are a part of us, and we are a part of them. They are a language, and we speak it. They are a story, and we live it. They are a dream, and we dream it. They are a reality, and we are it. They are a part of us, and we are a part of them. They are a language, and we speak it. They are a story, and we live it. They are a dream, and we dream it. They are a reality, and we are it.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Business Breakfast** (2044) 7.00 News (7) (2373) 8.00 **Kilroy** (S) (543456) 9.40 **Sting** (S) (180808) 10.05 **City Hospital** (S) (7) (489858) 10.55 **News** (Regional News: Weather (7) (489858) 11.00 **Good Living** (S) (460820) 11.45 **Cartoon** (S) (7) (460820) 11.55 **News** (Regional News: Weather (7) (523288) 12.00 **Pass the Biscuits** (S) (202550) 12.25 **Going for a Song** (S) (623137) 12.50 **The Weather Show** (S) (7) (230655) 1.00 **News** (Weather (7) (28820) 1.30 **Regional News** (Weather (7) (453873) 1.40 **Neighbours** (S) (7) (673820) 2.05 **London** (S) (25244) 2.45 **Batman** (S) (7) (460306)
- 3.25 **Children's BBC** (Playdays (S) (93237) 3.45 **Enchanted Lands** - The Magic of the Fairy Tale (S) (93237) 3.55 **Badger and Badger** (S) (93237) 4.10 **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (S) (7) (37317) 4.35 **Goosebumps** (S) (7) (92397) 5.00 **Newsworld** (S) (7) (23275) 5.10 **Blue Peter** (S) (7) (60551)
- 5.35 **Neighbours** - Feelings run high between Susan and Karl. Lance becomes more assertive (S) (65804)
- 6.00 **News** (Weather (7) (937)
- 6.30 **Regional News** - And weather (7) (977)
- 7.00 **This is Your Life** - Michael Aspel confronts another hapless individual with all those people they hoped they'd never see again (S) (7) (7288)
- 7.30 **Here and Now** - Juliet Morris looks at a CD-ROM used in the US to help young offenders. Can computers really make us better parents? (S) (7) (601)
- 8.00 **Eastenders** - Paddy is shocked when Gem is barred from the house, which surely puts her in a minority of one (S) (7) (697)
- 8.30 **Birds of a Feather** - Clocking up their 10th episode, the sisters get tangled with David's father as Billie 'Gertie' wedding day approaches (S) (7) (644)
- 9.00 **News** (Regional News: Weather (7) (664)
- 9.30 **Harry Enfield's Television Programme** - Always Kelly Burke as for the first (S) (7) (23882)
- 10.00 **100%** - The current affairs programme investigates the dramatic rise in suicides among young men. See *Documentary of the Day* below (S) (46153)
- 10.40 **They Think It's All Over** - The sports club show with real jokes, most of them silly. Jo Brand and Greg Rusedel join the regulars (S) (7) (68558)
- 11.00 **Escape from Terror** (Michael Scott 1995 US). Truth is stranger than fiction in the dramatic thriller. A young woman's twisted romance with a man who turns out to be a serial killer. (S) (7) (68558)
- 11.45 **On Air: The Truth about TV** (S) (78169) 12.00 **Despatch Box** (S) (14047) 12.30 **BBC Learning Zone** - Global Studies: Pacific Studies: Coming Home to Brazil (68008) 1.00 **Water is for Fighting** (S) (68008) 1.30 **Wheels of Innovation** (68339) 2.00 **Ball Season** - The Long Search/Train to Folly (31009) 4.00 **Language** - Spanish Journey 2 (68492) 5.00 **Business and Training** - Skills for Work (248492) 5.45 **Open University** - Insect Hormones (670524) to 6.00am.

BBC2

- 7.00 **Children's BBC** (Wiggy Park (622085) 7.05 **Reluctant Hero** (623827) 7.30 **Yogi's Treasure Hunt** (685207) 7.55 **Blue Peter** (171801) 8.20 **Furry Phantom** (407875) 8.45 **Round the Bend** (332337) 8.55 **Tales of the Tooth Fairy** (600442) 9.00 **Wiggy Park** (453820) 9.05 **Phil Smeets Show** (708153) 9.30 **Great Romances of the Twentieth Century** (4072) 10.00 **Reluctant Hero** (68901)
- 10.30 **ELITE** - Jane Eyre (Robert Stevenson 1944 US). Version of Charlotte Brontë's tale, with Orson Welles, Joan Fontaine and Elizabeth Taylor (7) (280835)
- 12.00 **The Roadshow Collection** (S) (622443) 12.30 **Working Lunch** (61288) 1.00 **Children's BBC** - Ponder the Paradox (S) (7) (78787) 1.10 **Art and Crafts** (S) (7) (78787) 1.20 **What's on the Day** (S) (68242) 1.30 **News** (Local News: Weather (7) (68242) 1.40 **On the Day** (S) (68242) 1.50 **Local News** (Weather (7) (68242) 2.00 **Change the Day** (S) (7) (68242) 2.10 **Local News** (Weather (7) (68242) 2.20 **Change the Day** (S) (7) (68242) 2.30 **Local News** (Weather (7) (68242) 2.40 **Change the Day** (S) (7) (68242) 2.50 **Local News** (Weather (7) (68242) 3.00 **Change the Day** (S) (7) (68242) 3.10 **Local News** (Weather (7) (68242) 3.20 **Change the Day** (S) (7) (68242) 3.30 **Local News** (Weather (7) (68242) 3.40 **Change the Day** (S) (7) (68242) 3.50 **Local News** (Weather (7) (68242) 4.00 **Change the Day** (S) (7) (68242) 4.10 **Local News** (Weather (7) (68242) 4.20 **Change the Day** (S) (7) (68242) 4.30 **Local News** (Weather (7) (68242) 4.40 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